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The Gathering

of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

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Shifts Toward a Hopeful Future

by Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator

Most of us in North Carolina realize that a significant shift has been taking place in recent years, a shift in the relationship between the church and the culture.

Earlier in my life and ministry, the church sat at the center of the culture. A majority of people went to church, or at least understood the nature and purpose of the church. The culture supported rather than competed with the church. The church enjoyed a privileged place in most of our communities.

That is no longer the case. The place of the church has shifted from the center of the culture to the margins of the culture. Not only do most persons not attend church, they don't even feel guilty about it. Some have no direct knowledge of the beliefs and practices of the church and don't see how it is relevant for their lives.

This is a relatively new phenomenon for most of our churches in North Carolina, but it has been going on in Canada for a long time. On a trip to Canada during last summer's sabbatical, I met with Baptists who share our core beliefs and practices and learned how they have been dealing with shift for several decades. As I visited with Marc and Kim Wyatt (CBF Global Missions field personnel from NC), congregational leaders, regional denominational leaders, a seminary professor and the leaders of Canadian Baptist Ministries (a global missions agency), I learned of shifts they are making that are enabling Canadian Baptists to deal faithfully and effectively with the larger cultural shifts that have now reached the Tarheel State.

From Church-As-Community Institution to Church-As-Mission Outpost

In our heyday, churches were viewed as significant community institutions. People understood what churches offered and came to churches to receive religious goods and services. Church leaders worked to provide the best programs and ministries possible in order to attract people to the church, people who for the most part understood what the church was trying to do.

Churches in Canada no longer pretend that the culture "gets" the church. Instead of thinking like marketers or managers or even chaplains, they are learning to think like missionaries. When missionaries move to a new place of service, they don't assume that those they are trying to reach understand what they are doing. They don't begin by creating programs to attract persons to the church. They first learn the language and customs of the community. They build relationships with people to discern their felt and real needs. Then they begin to translate the Gospel of Jesus Christ into tangible need-meeting ministries that connect with people where they live and where they hurt. Bible studies and worship services grow organically out of tangible expressions of the Kingdom of God, not vice-versa.

From Fearing to Welcoming the Stranger

Because of an open-door immigration policy, Canada has become a haven for people all around the world who have immigrated there to flee persecution or to seek a better way of life. The city of Toronto is the most multi-cultural city in the world, and much of the rest of Canada has become very culturally diverse.

I imagine it was difficult in the early days of a high level of immigration for traditional Canadian Baptist churches to embrace the newcomers. The changes in their communities caused most of them to decline significantly in terms of traditional measurements (attendance and money). In time, some of them began to discover ways to welcome the newcomers to their communities. These congregations that learned to make this shift are growing again.

From Mission Trips to Global Discipleship

How can we make these two shifts? Canadian Baptists have developed a powerful tool to equip Christians and churches to move in this direction. Like us, the Canadians have been sending church members on mission trips for three decades. But they discovered, as many of us know intuitively, that these trips often have as great an impact on those making the trips as on those we are seeking to serve. So, they have developed very intentional processes to utilize short-term mission experiences as vehicles for missional formation and discipleship development.

Churches lead mission trip participants through a pre-trip preparation phase that lasts several months, guiding them in focused reflection during the trip, and helping them apply what God taught them on the trip after they return home. The church members who take mission trips not only grow more deeply in their faith, but they are better equipped to serve as missionaries in their communities when they return home.

In the coming years and months, CBFNC will be working to develop processes that will help congregations who participate in our mission efforts to make this shift. Not only will it enable us to be better stewards of the significant resources we pour into mission trips, but it may be a vital avenue of spiritual renewal for our churches and Kingdom-transformation for our state.

The church in North Carolina, like the church throughout North America, is undergoing drastic shifts. We may not like it, but we can't stop it. Thankfully, like-minded and like-hearted Baptists in Canada have more experience in dealing with these shifts than we do. By learning from them and following their lead, we can make our own shifts that will enable us to be faithful to God's mission in our time and place.

Fresh Expressions: Open Eyes, Open Heart

by Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator

CBFNC, in partnership with CBF National, the Center for Congregational Health, and the Virginia Baptist Mission Board, will host a *Fresh Expressions Vision Day* on February 1, 2013, at First, Greensboro. ... But what is "Fresh Expressions"?

Fresh Expressions is a movement of the Holy Spirit that began in the Church of England, has spread throughout other denominations in the United Kingdom, and has now made it to the U.S. According to *freshexpressions.org.uk*, "A fresh expression is a form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church.

- It will come into being through principles of listening, service, contextual mission and making disciples.
- It will have the potential to become a mature expression of church shaped by the gospel and the enduring marks of the church and for its cultural context."

Fresh Expressions is not a program or a marketing tool to get more people to attend Sunday morning worship services or a strategy to increase contributions. "While all fresh expressions are different," says *freshexpressionsus.org*, "there are some guiding principles that tie them all together. Fresh expressions are:

- *Missional* – serving those not currently served by any church;
- *Incarnational* – listening to people and entering their culture;
- *Discipling* – helping people enter more fully into the life of Christ;
- *Ecclesial* – forming church."

Fresh expressions of church, ideally, are launched by or exist in partnership with "inherited" churches. Together they form what Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams calls a "mixed economy," existing side by side, enriching one another in mutually supportive ways.

Fresh expressions require little or no budget. Instead, they will demand that we approach our communities with:

- *Open eyes* – to see people in our community who need Jesus but to whom we may have been blind
- *Open hearts* – to make space and time in our busy lives to cultivate relationships with them

I believe fresh expressions may be a significant avenue through which the churches of our fellowship more faithfully and effectively reach people in our community with the Good News of Jesus, people who may never enter our buildings. In doing so, these fresh expressions may, in ways we can't now imagine, serve to renew and revive the historic congregations we love so much.

Interested in learning more about this movement and how you and your church might join in? Visit *FreshExpressionsUS.org* for more information.

Changing Church for a Changing World: A Fresh Expressions Vision Day

February 1, 2013
First Baptist Church of Greensboro

WHAT IS FRESH EXPRESSIONS?
Fresh Expressions is a movement that is cultivating new forms of church alongside existing congregations in order to reach a changing world. Begun in England eight years ago, it has resulted in the birth of more than 2,000 new communities in the UK alone. Fresh Expressions has spread to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and is now taking shape in the US.

At its heart, Fresh Expressions is about empowering and equipping God's people to develop creative expressions of church that can reach the increasing diversity of our society.

WHAT IS VISION DAY?
Vision Day is a great way to discover more about Fresh Expressions. In an interactive format, you will have the chance to:
- Hear how Fresh Expressions is renewing the church
- Talk about the development of Fresh Expressions US
- Learn more about the Mission-Shaped Church
- Discover tools to start Fresh Expressions in your area

WHAT'S THE SCHEDULE?

9.30am	Gathering Time – Coffee & Refreshments
10.00am	Welcome & Worship
10.15am	Session # 1 – Movement: How Fresh Expressions Is Changing the Landscape
11.00am	Break
11.15am	Session # 2 – Need: Why Fresh Expressions Matter for the Church
12.15pm	Lunch Break
1.00pm	Session # 3 – Form: Creating Fresh Expressions in Context, Part I
2.00pm	Break
2.15pm	Session # 4 – Develop: Creating Fresh Expressions in Context, Part II
3.00pm	Break
3.15pm	Session # 5 – Action: How It's Happening and How You Can Get Involved
4.00pm	Closing

Visit *FreshExpressionsUS.org* for more information.

Cost: $30 per person
Register: Log onto *www.freshexpressions.org* and register for the Vision Day under "training and events."
Questions? Call Gannon Sims at (540) 371-3970, *gannon.sims@freshexpressionsus.org*

Co-Sponsored by CBFNC, the Center for Congregational Health, CBF National, and Virginia Baptists.

Sacred Rhythms

of Jesus followers

Come. Abide. Go.

JOHN 15:5 JOHN 15:12-17

March 15-16, 2013

First Baptist Church in Lumberton

Friday, March 15

- Welcome and Orientation
- Ministry Workshop Sessions
- Fellowship Dinner
  (requires pre-registration)
- Evening Worship
- Preaching: Greg Rogers, Pastor, Oakmont Baptist Church, Greenville
- Fellowship Reception

Saturday, March 16

- Ministry Workshop Session
- Ministry Celebration
  (including adoption of 2013-2014 budget and council election)
- Morning Worship
- Presenting sermon in dialogue: Kasey Jones, Senior Pastor, National Baptist Memorial Church, Washington, D.C., and Tommy Justus, Pastor, Mars Hills Baptist Church, Mars Hills

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST
fellowship
OF NORTH CAROLINA

Learn more at *www.cbfnc.org*.

Teaching Children about Wealth and Poverty

Ministering with Twenty Somethings

Choose Your Own Adventure with ABPnews

Sabbath Joy!

Disciples in Mark: Committed, Warts and All

Jesus' Meeting with Nicodemus: Spiritual Discipleship as Civic Engagement

Welcoming God & Other Strangers

God & Country — Patriotism and the People of God

Intergenerational Ministry Dialogue

Understanding and Responding to the Needs of Students and Families Growing Up in Poverty

The Baptist Fair Trade Project: Bringing a Taste of Justice to Your Congregation

Her Place at the Table: Creating a Church Culture in which Women are Welcomed as Ministers and Leaders

The Power of Partnership

Discovering Your Sacred Rhythm in Life

Gardening as a Metaphor for Healthy Congregations

Discover a New Resource for Adult & Youth Sunday School!

The Gospel and Popular Culture

A Baptist Bar Mitzvah

When Helping Hurts

Missions Opportunities in the Mid-Atlantic

Is This a Vacation or a Mission Trip?

Building Community with Your Local Schools

How to Build a Campfire

Walking Prayer: Learning the Labyrinth

Practical Suggestions for Growing Your Church Through Your Website

Poverty: It's Not Just Economics

Lots to Tech About

Difficult Discussions: Palliative Care

Sacred and Creative Space: Making Little Altars (Everywhere)

God Calls Us All: Four Patterns of Calling in Scripture and History

Groceries for Brunswick County Neighbors in Need

by Rudy Ramphal, Senior Pastor, Brunswick Islands Baptist Church

According to Feeding America, a hunger-relief organization, North Carolina ranks as the second worst state in the nation when it comes to children under five lacking regular access to nutritious food and as the tenth worst for children of all ages. In Brunswick County, the home county of the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank, approximately 15% of the population survived at or below the poverty line last year. Consequently, thousands of people, many of them children, faced issues of hunger and/or significant food insecurity last year. Food insecurity is defined by Hunger in America as limited or uncertain access to adequate food.

The Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry (LFFP) started approximately 12 years ago with a small group of volunteers in the fellowship hall of Brunswick Island Baptist Church (BIBC). These volunteers, heeding the call of Matthew 25:35, felt compelled to make BIBC an active part in eliminating hunger and food insecurity in Brunswick County. Now the operation has expanded beyond the walls of the fellowship hall. A separate building, built by members of BIBC, now houses freezer and refrigeration units to store food items.

The expansion was a direct result of the increased need of those who faced hunger and food insecurity in the community. BIBC has since joined with other area churches and organizations that have shared financial resources and volunteers and have served as distribution centers for the food gathered through the LFFP. These churches and organizations have surmounted racial, denominational, and language barriers to join together to fight hunger in the community. It is truly the kingdom of God realized on earth to see Christians break down divisive barriers to come together to fight poverty and hunger.

On average, the LFFP serves 2,500 individuals and 530 families each month. The need has become even greater in the current economic climate, and there is both room and desire for further expansion. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, our nation has found itself in the wake of the longest post-war recession in current history. Consequently, research shows that more Americans are suffering the effects of poverty that accompanies such a prolonged and dramatic downturn than in any time in recent history (*www.nber.org*). No longer can a person determine if someone is food insecure based on the house they live in or the car they drive. Many who were once successful laborers and merchants now face grave economic insecurities and consequently need assistance in feeding themselves and their families. The number of families and individuals who receive services from the LFFP have increased, and it is time to expand operations to meet those needs.

Items such as a walk-in refrigerator and freezer, better storage for fruits and vegetables, not to mention better and more effective methods of communicating the needs and purpose of the food bank, are necessary. The estimated cost of the expansion project is $75,000. Included in this price are the aforementioned energy efficient commercial-size refrigerators and freezers as well as the cost of modifying and expanding the existing building. Also included are computers and programs to monitor inventory and persons served which is required by the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC.

Although the financial obstacle seems daunting, BIBC is convinced that the hunger needs of Brunswick County's impoverished is more daunting still. The people of LFFP are simply obeying the call of Christ when they do and give as much as they can.

CBF OF NORTH CAROLINA

Hunger Fund

www.cbfnc.org/Missions/HungerFundPoverty.aspx

18.2% of all North Carolinians and 27.3% of children in NC are food insecure.

www.feedingamerica.org

This means families have to choose between:

- food or medicine
- groceries or gas
- dinner or heating their homes

You can make a difference.

Young Ministers Series: Stella Perrin

This is the third in a series of articles written by young ministers in our Fellowship. They were asked to share hopes and fears about the Baptist church or to write about something they are currently passionate about.

"Is tomorrow a school day, Mom?" asked my seven-year-old daughter before bed recently. "No," I replied, "Tomorrow is Sunday." "YES!! Church day!" she exclaimed, "It's going to be a great day!" What wonderful words for a mom and a minister to children to hear.

When I think about my hopes and fears for our churches, my daughter's words come to mind. Will she always feel that way about church? Will church be a place where she knows she belongs? Will church help equip her to go into her world to make a difference in the name of Christ?

As a parent of three, and one who serves children and families at my church, I look around at our world and am deeply concerned. Now, more than ever, activities and opportunities compete with church life. Soccer or dance on Wednesdays or baseball on Sundays is the norm, and force families to make a choice between these activities and church.

Our kids are influenced constantly by peers with smart phones and Facebook. Families are struggling economically, and many wonder how they are going to make it. We are bombarded with destructive images and ideas from media that distract us from the abundant life God intends. So what is the answer to help our families thrive and draw others into the grace that we already know?

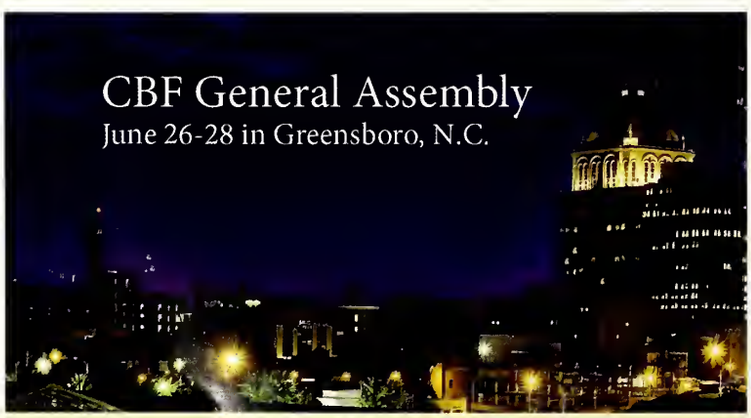
I don't think the answer lies in what CBF churches *need to do*. Rather, I believe the answer is who we *need to be*. Recently in our kindergarten Sunday School class, one child noticed that another little girl had not been to church in several Sundays. She asked her teacher to help her write a note telling her how much she missed her and wanted her to come back to church. The teacher did and mailed the note. The following Sunday, the little girl came. When the two children saw each other they ran and hugged each other and were inseparable all morning. Our churches need to be a place where all people feel wanted and loved.

In the past several months, our church has experienced several unexpected deaths among our members. We also have several who are currently facing life-threatening illnesses. Although it has been a painful time, I have seen our church pull together and pray for one another. People have willingly prepared meals, sent cards, and made hospital visits. It has been a real gift to see our church become a source of healing and hope as we share one another's burdens. We need to be that for one another in our churches and for those hurting around us in our communities.

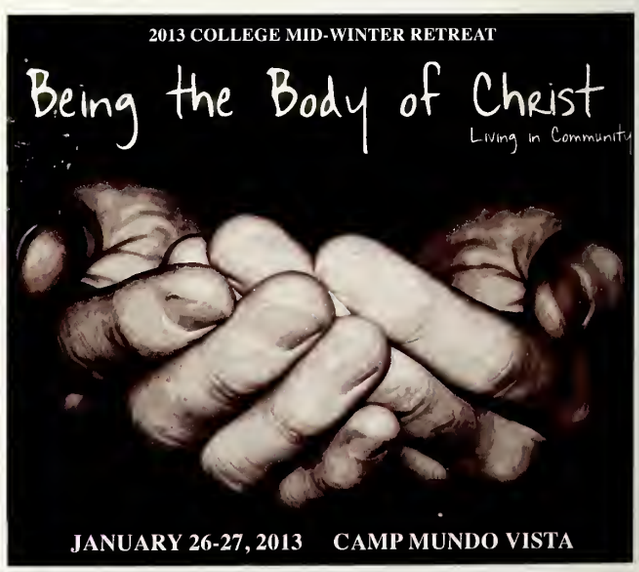
I was excited that Passport mission camp's theme this year was "Life Together." My older two children attended camp in Danville, Virginia, with our church youth group. Our youth came home with a deeper sense of unity and a desire to reach out to our community. I am thankful for partners like Passport that help teach our children and youth how to be Christ-like and to serve.

I think once we know who we need to be as churches, we will figure out what to do. My hope is that we will look at the needs around us and intentionally offer small groups and ministry activities that embrace people, minister to those who are hurting in our congregations and beyond, and serve our communities. That is the kind of church that would make me say, "Yes!! It is Sunday. It is going to be a great day!"

Stella Lail Perrin has served as Minister of Spiritual Formation, Families and Children at First, North Wilkesboro, since April 2009. She is married to John, and they have three children, Luke, Abigail, and Tess. She is a graduate of the M. Christopher White School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University.



Exciting things are happening at the 2013 Assembly.
Learn more about what's new and pre-register at
www.thefellowship.info/assembly



Fellowship on the Move REPRISE (recurrence or renewal)

by Ka'thy Gore Chappell, CBFNC Leadership Development Coordinator

When churches partner with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina in events like *Fellowship on the Move,* what do we learn from our experience? We know that *Fellowship on the Move* is an opportunity to establish relationships with people in churches and specific areas within our state. We know that *Fellowship on the Move* offers an opportunity to be challenged to live the Christ-life more fully. But what did we learn from the 2012 fall season of *Fellowship on the Move?*

CBFNC and our church hosts have learned to celebrate the individuality of these events. For example, the 2012 *Fellowship on the Move* events included:

- An early October worship at **First, Ahoskie,** in collaboration with Chowan University, featured the theme, "It's About Jesus." CBFNC's Social Ministry Coordinator Laura Barclay was proclaimer;

- A late October worship at **First, Waynesville,** in collaboration with the Western North Carolina Baptist Fellowship, featured stories of reconciliation with bluegrass music connections;
- An early November worship at **Peace Haven, Winston-Salem,** in collaboration with the CBFNC Racial Reconciliation and Wealth & Poverty teams, featured the theme, "The Beloved Community," with Daryl Aaron and Nathan Parrish preaching in dramatic dialogue.

CBFNC and the *Fellowship on the Move* planning teams have learned (and are learning) to build the event based on the needs of the respective church and area. Specific needs for future *Fellowship on the Move* include development of personal discipleship and spiritual formation engagement or education for families; mission-focused service work; worship and fellowship opportunities including shared meals; poverty and racial reconciliation education; and overall storytelling and networking.

Join CBFNC in celebrating the 2012 *Fellowship on the Move* events. There is more to come ... a recurrence or a renewal? Yes, a REPRISE!

Where Can We Go on a Mission Trip?

by Linda Jones, CBFNC Missions Coordinator

Ottawa, Canada

Kim and Marc Wyatt, CBF Field Personnel serving in The Great White North, welcome mission teams as they establish connections between churches, business and social service organizations, and coordinate strategies for reaching internationals (refugees, immigrants, international students) migrating into Ontario and Quebec, Canada. In August 1998, they assisted with the launch of the Matthew House Refugee Reception Services Toronto (*www.matthewhouse.ca/*). The Toronto-based ministry inspired a movement of similar ministries across Ontario and Quebec. There are now five Matthew House Refugee Ministries in Canada: in Toronto, the largest and most multi-cultural city; in Windsor and Ft. Erie, cities along the US border; in Ottawa, the national capital; and in Montreal, Canada's largest French speaking urban center. The Wyatts (*wyatt@thefellowship.info*) have produced the book, *The Above Ground Railroad: The Story of the Matthew House Movement in Canada* by author and photographer Joey Clifton (*http://joeyclifton.smugmug.com/*).

Kenya

Sam and Melody Harrell have established Change for Children in Kenya, and are constructing eight integrated child development centers around Kenya. These centers have the potential to better the lives of the nearly 650 children ranging in age from 3-6 who will attend the schools this year. Teams come to Kenya to provide support for the schools through medical services, construction, or simply teaching and playing with the children. Contact *harrell@africaexchange.org*.

Shelby, NC

Cecelia Beck's neighbors in northeast Shelby have many needs which she discovers through friendship and intentional involvement in their lives. Assistance is always welcome. One Saturday each month there is a three-hour "Fun Blast" involving games, Bible story/craft, and a simple meal. Youth groups and/or SS classes are welcome to carry out this event. Additional help is needed with Sunday AM Children's Church, providing school supplies, meals for 50 twice a month, and supper for the kids at Tuesday Homework Club. Contact Cecelia at 828-289-2892 or *bcecelia@hotmail.com*.

Spain

Matt and Michelle Norman are heading to Barcelona, Spain in January and looking for partnering churches and individuals. Contact *mnorman@thefellowship.info*.

Romania

Ralph and Tammy Stocks work with Romany (Gypsy) ministry in Bucharest, Romania. Opportunities include ministry at the Ruth School teaching, crafting, repairing the buildings. Contact *rstocks@thefellowship.info*.

Passport

Passport, Inc., is a nonprofit company whose goal is integrated, ecumenical, inspirational weeks of summer camp that model important lessons like service in the name of Christ. Passport Kids for 3rd-6th grades take place in multiple sites. 6th-12th grade students can join Passport Choices and Passport Missions. Great experiences await your youth! Watch a two-minute video on YouTube. Details are available at *www.passportcamps.org*.

Belize, Central America

Belize is the only English-speaking country in Latin America and is located just south of Mexico on the Caribbean coast. Mission Team opportunities include church-to-church relationships and ministry opportunities of construction, VBS, discipleship training and leadership training. CBFNC churches are partnering together to finish the **construction of St. Elena School** in Belize. More partners are needed and welcome! Contact *ljones@cbfnc.org*.

■ **The Baptist Bible School of Belize** provides three intensive weeks of study each year. CBFNC churches and interested friends provide the budget to cover the cost of the courses and textbooks, meals for the week, and administration. Please consider helping financially or, if interested in teaching, contact Susan Pasour at *spasour@yahoo.com*.

■ **Eric and Julie Maas, CBF field personnel in Belize.** In central Belize, the Child Development Foundation (CDF) raises awareness of sexual exploitation of children and abuse that is rampant in this nation. CDF provides outreach to churches, training within the community and schools, seminars for healing, and a counseling center. CDF needs prayer partners to cover this organization and its victims. Secondly, CDF needs financial partners willing to donate, monthly if possible, to help with its operating budget (which was down to $400 US this fall), counseling center, and a rescue home needed for trafficked victims. Check out *www.cdfbelize.com* or "CDF Belize" on Facebook for more information. Visit *www.seekservesave.org*.

South Africa

The Williams Family works with a Zulu community in a tribal area of South Africa called Emmaus. This ministry focuses on discipleship, education, community development and helping the vulnerable. They are so grateful to all those who partner with them financially, through prayer and encouragement, and through short-term missions. **Short Term Missions in 2013:** Medical Missions, Children's work, community gardens, putting in a well, and teacher training. **Ways your church can get involved:** toy drive or funding for the preschool in Emmaus, sponsor a garden plot, a chicken coop, widow's food parcels, and Bibles. Contact *mswilliams@thefellowship.info* or *www.arisemg.org.za*.

Living Faith Ministry, Lebanon

Chaouki and Maha Boulos, CBF field personnel in Lebanon, coordinate "Celebrate Jesus" rallies in Beirut and neighboring countries where thousands of people have heard about Jesus Christ – some for the first time. Their ministry facilitates children's ministry and prison outreach. They distribute food and medicine to families in need. They give street children shoes and provide women with dental care. Come as a team to Beirut, Lebanon, or to Egypt and assist with an evangelism rally, lead a sports camp, or work at the newly opened White Wings Conference Center. Financial help is also needed for the rallies and for the Conference Center. Contact *operationantioch@hotmail.com*.

WNC Slavic Ministries, Asheville, NC

Fran and Mike Graham are self-funded CBF Field Personnel serving as coordinators for WNC Slavic Ministries, Inc. This is a non-profit interdenominational ministry working together with Slavic leaders to provide holistic ministries to empower Slavic immigrants as they integrate into the Asheville area.

Some ways in which you can be involved:

- Invite dentists, dental assistants, and dental hygienists to volunteer the week of March 26-31, 2013, to treat Slavic adults on the NC Baptist Men's Mobile Dental Unit;
- Visit *www.wncslavicministries.org* to see a list of suggested items for six different kits which groups can bring to Asheville. These kits are given to Slavic families when they move into their first apartment;
- There are opportunities for youth and adults to plan and lead backyard Bible clubs during the summer after June 15;
- Sort donated household items stored in a warehouse area; bring donated furniture and household items for Slavic families moving into their first apartment. There may be opportunities to deliver donated items to Slavic families;
- In August, there may be an opportunity for gleaning with people of the Slavic community;
- On Saturdays during the year, groups are welcome to plan and lead picnics with organized games in apartment complexes for children of various cultures.

Together For Hope, Nada, Kentucky

Together For Hope, Nada, KY
Paula Settle serves in Nada and Booneville in eastern KY as a part of the Rural Poverty Initiative. This involves working with mission teams each year, doing housing repairs, reverse mission team trips, tutoring at the elementary school, and GORGEous Gals earrings / Business As Mission project. The following items are always needed in Powell and Owsley Counties: Kroger and Save A Lot grocery gift cards; linens; good used furniture; school supplies; adopt a classroom at Owsley County Elementary School; money for field trips for teens and women; sell our GORGEous Gals earrings at your church; and gift cards for our four college students. Contact *paula5005@bellsouth.net*.

Together For Hope of Arkansas

Together For Hope of Arkansas is based at the Helena Community Center which hosts Stories on Wheels (a toy and book lending library), sports ministries, after-school tutoring programs, nutritional programs, and health programs. Come be a part of CBF's Rural Poverty Initiative to reach out to this community. Teams, families and individuals are encouraged to come each summer to participate in the All Church Challenge that will include a two-week KidsCamp in July, building renovations and a community garden. Delta Jewels sale parties and other micro-enterprise opportunities are needed! Contact *www.togetherforhopear.com* and *www.allchurchchallenge.org*.

San Francisco Bay

San Francisco Bay Rick and Lita Sample serve among international refugees, immigrants, and internationals students, and they advocate on behalf of victims of human trafficking. They are looking for teams who would come to be part of this ministry. Opportunities include a Mihmani (an Afghan Friendship Gathering) event where Christians and Muslims come together, Easter Egg Hunts, July 4th celebration, Kite Day (Afghan tradition of Kite Fighting), Back-to-School Mihmani, VBS, Karen Park Day carnival, Karen Church involvement with crafts and games for the children, and help with baby showers.

Needed for ministry: gift cards to Walmart, Target, and Payless Shoes; kites; Veggie Tales movies (especially Christmas and Easter); toothpaste; toothbrushes; soap; decorated pencils; school supplies; back packs; towels; wash cloths; dish cloths; socks; sweaters; fleece jackets; small toys; stuffed animals; baby items; Sunday School materials for children (including curriculum books for kids); and children's books. Contact *rsample@thefellowship.info*.

Northeastern North Carolina

Anna and LaCount Anderson serve in poverty relief in **Northeastern NC.** They are busy helping homeless men, women and children through poverty relief. They welcome groups to participate in short-term mission projects which would include providing Christian education, light handyman projects, food distribution as well as clothing recycling. The Andersons are also involved with ministry at Union Mission, a rescue mission that serves homeless men and the community. They distribute approximately 700 boxes of food each month to families who are in need. This project requires large amounts of non-perishable foods. Your church can aid the Andersons by sponsoring a food drive and making the food available for distribution to the residents of Halifax County through Union Mission. Used and worn out clothing is collected and either recycled or sold to make mission dollars. Groups can organize ongoing clothing collections that will result in aid for people in need. You can find out information about the Andersons at *www.morethancans.org*.

Haiti

The Haiti Housing Network is a collaboration between CBF, Conscience International, the Fuller Center for Housing and the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Come build a home utilizing a technique developed by Conscience International in which earthquake rubble is used as building material. There are two houses completed for volunteer teams to live in while in Haiti. Teams are desperately needed to build more homes for the people of Haiti! Contact *cboltin@thefellowship.info*. Steve and Nancy James can be contacted for medical missions info in Haiti at *jamesinhaiti@gmail.com*.

The Timothy Project

The Timothy Project: Missions, Retreats & Recreation
The Timothy Project, led by Cliff Christian, is an ecumenical missions coordination agency for church, youth, college and intergenerational groups. Based in the Appalachian Mountains of western NC, they identify, develop, assist and support ongoing mission efforts in the southeastern US. Their summer mission activities are youth oriented and seek to connect students with opportunities to serve, learn and grow in relationship to Jesus Christ and others. Opportunities include youth summer missions, college retreats, skiing retreats, and missions/rafting experience. Visit *www.TheTimothyProjects.com*.

Your gifts to a CBFNC endowment fund can provide a bridge of blessing, of hope, and of help.

Designate a gift for scholarships, new church starts, or where it is most needed. You will be blessed and you will build a bridge of blessing for others.

Contact Jim Hylton at *jhylton@cbfnc.org* or (336) 759-3456 for more information.

Ministers on the Move

Compiled by Jack Causey, Ministerial Resources Coordinator

Our encouragement and support go to the following ministers who have recently moved:

Jeff Carter is now serving as Assistant Pastor of Music and Technology at First Baptist Church of Valdese.

First Baptist Church of Stantonsburg has called **Gil Gulick** as Pastor.

Tim Marsh has been called by First Baptist Church of Rutherfordton to serve as Pastor.

Ardmore Baptist Church of Winston-Salem has called **Don Gordon** as Pastor.

Nate Leonard has been called by First Baptist Church of Morehead City to serve as Pastor.

Tim Williford is now serving Lystra Baptist Church in Chapel Hill as Pastor.

When you make a move or know of someone who has changed places of ministry, let us know at jcausey@cbfnc.org. **For assistance to search committees and ministers seeking vocational discernment, visit our reference and referral page on our website at www.cbfnc.org or call 336-759-3456 or 888-822-1944.**

CBFNC Staff Anniversaries

by Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator

Our Fellowship is blessed to be served by a faithful, dedicated, gifted, effective staff team. Some are "old timers," while others have been with us for a shorter tenure. All work hard, work well together, and work tirelessly to "bring Baptists together for Christ-centered ministry."

The list that follows contains the names of our staff members and their service anniversaries. Please keep this list handy, add them to your prayer list during the month of their anniversary, and, if you are led, send them an expression of appreciation and encouragement.

I can confidently speak for them when I say, "Thanks for the opportunity to serve God through this fellowship."

FEBRUARY 2013
Nancy Parks, Programs Manager ..... 9 years

MARCH 2013
Linda Jones, Missions Coordinator ..... 7 years
Sarah Mitchell, Communications Manager ..... 3 years

APRIL 2013
Javier Benitez, Hispanic Ministry Leader Coach ..... 3 years

MAY 2013
Rick Jordan, Faith Development Coordinator ..... 11 years
Laura Barclay, Social Ministries Coordinator ..... 5 years

JUNE 2013
Jack Causey, Ministerial Resources Coordinator ..... 6 years
Ka'thy Chappell, Leadership Development Coordinator ..... 2 years

JULY 2013
Derek Wilhelm, Administrative Assistant ..... 1 year

AUGUST 2013
Wanda Kidd, College Ministry Coordinator ..... 5 years

OCTOBER 2013
Larry Hovis, Executive Coordinator ..... 9 years
Jim Hylton, Business Administration Coordinator ..... 6 years

NOVEMBER 2013
Eddie Hammett, Church and Clergy Coach ..... 4 years

DECEMBER 2013
Gail McAlister, Financial Manager ..... 13 years

Coordinator Visits October 2012 -November 2012

Campbell Divinity School
Duke Divinity School
First, Ahoskie
First, Asheville
First, Clinton
First, Dunn
First, Graham
First, High Point
First, Kernersville
First, Liberty
First, Mount Airy
First, Weaverville
First, Whiteville
Gardner Webb Divinity School
Mars Hill, Mars Hill
United, Chapel Hill
Wake Forest Divinity School

CBF Global Missions Field Personnel Off-Field Assignments in Our Area

Keith Holmes and Mary Van Rheenen (The Netherlands)
Raleigh: January-June 2013 **holmes@thefellowship.info**

The Gathering

of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

Cooperative Baptist FELLOWSHIP

phone: 336.759.3456 • phone: 888.822.1944 • fax: 336.759.3459 • cbfnc@cbfnc.org • www.cbfnc.org

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Laura Barclay ..... Social Ministries Coordinator ..... LBarclay@cbfnc.org
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Eddie Hammett ... Church and Clergy Coach ..... EHammett@cbfnc.org
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Region 2 – Foothills: David Smith ..... davsmith@charter.net
Region 3 – Triad: Bill Leathers ..... wleathers@triad.com
Region 4 – South Central: Drag Kimrey ..... dragkimrey@roadrunner.com
Region 5 – North Central: (open) .....
Region 6 – Capital: Mack Thompson ..... mackthompson1@att.net
Region 7 – Southeast: Mike Johnson ..... mikejohn303@earthlink.net
Region 8 – Northeast: Jesse Croom ..... jmacroom@hotmail.com

CBFNC College Ministers

Ashley Mangrum ..... UNC Chapel Hill ..... amangrum@cbfnc.org
Aileen Lawrimore ..... Western Carolina ..... alawrimore@cbfnc.org
Lawrence Powers ..... East Carolina..... lpowers@cbfnc.org
Jeanne Cross ..... Duke University ..... jcross@cbfnc.org
Chris Towles ..... Wake Forest..... towlescj@wfu.edu

Coordinating Council
Donna Bissette, Winston-Salem, **Moderator**
Ray Ammons, Gastonia, **Moderator-Elect**
Steve Little, Marion, **Past Moderator**
Lisa Rust, Lumberton, **Recorder**
Mike Eddinger, Cary, **Treasurer**
Tommy Bratton, Asheville
David Hailey, Raleigh
Marion Horton, Knightdale
Rick Matthews, Winston-Salem
Martha McDowell, Laurinburg
Doug Murray, Wilson
Mike Queen, Greensboro
Susan Taylor, Chapel Hill

Endowment Management Board
Scott Hudgins, Winston-Salem
Judy LeCroy, Lexington
Bill McCullough, Youngsville
Anissa Nixon, Mocksville
Gene Puckett, Raleigh

Faith Formation Ministry Council
Allen Winters, Wilmington, **Chair**
Stella Perrin, Taylorsville, **Chair-Elect**
Beth Cockman-Wood, Sanford
Bryan Harris, Smithfield
Beth Heffner, Rutherfordton
Brian Harrington, Liberty
Sandi Hood, Hickory
Tyler Roach, Morganton
Katie Fam Roscoe, Southern Pines
Sophia Steibel, Boiling Springs

Leadership Development Ministry Council
Scott Hovey, Durham, **Chair**
Layne Rogerson, Greenville, **Chair-Elect**
Dennis Atwood, Mount Olive
Ed Beddingfield, Fayetteville
Sarah Boberg, Red Springs
Rendell Hipps, Hickory
Matt Johnson, Belhaven
Shane Nixon, Mocksville
Mark Reece, Mount Airy
Nathan Rice, Southern Pines

Missions Ministry Council
Kent Cranford, Gastonia, **Chair**
Len Keever, Dunn, **Chair-Elect**
Elba Benitez, Pittsboro
Everette Clark, Enka
Blake Dempsey, Nashville
George Fuller, Raleigh
Brandon Hudson, Winston-Salem
Andrea Dellinger Jones, Raleigh
Nate Leonard, Kannapolis
Linda Winslow, Jamestown

CBF National Council Members from NC
Darryl Aaron, Winston-Salem
Roger Gilbert, Mount Airy
Don Gordon, Winston-Salem
Christopher Ingram, Elizabeth City
Glenn Phillips, Goldsboro
Alicia Porterfield, Wilmington
Blenda Price Sloniker, Hickory

Financial Report:

October 2012 Contributions	Undesignated - $131,132	Designated - $217,850
November 2012 Contributions	Undesignated - $101,981	Designated - $152,271

April 2012 - March 2013 Monthly Undesignated Goal: $128,837

FRESH EXPRESSIONS

Changing Church for a Changing World: A Fresh Expressions Vision Day

February 1, 2013
First Baptist Church, Greensboro

For more information, visit www.cbfnc.org.

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST
fellowship
OF NORTH CAROLINA
888-822-1944
www.cbfnc.org

Bringing Baptists of North Carolina Together for Christ-Centered Ministry

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Upcoming Events ~ January/February Edition

Introduction to Coaching
January 14, 2013
CBFNC offices, Winston-Salem

Two-Day Congregational Coaching Training
January 14-15, 2013
CBFNC offices, Winston-Salem

Free Conference Call to Explore Christian Coaching
January 22, 2013, at 10am

2013 Youth Ski Retreat
January 25-27, 2013
Winterplace, WV

Collegiate Mid-Winter Retreat
January 26-27, 2013
Camp Mundo Vista, Sophia

Quickstart: An Introduction to Christian Coaching
January 28, 2013
CBFNC offices, Winston-Salem

Changing Church for a Changing World: A Fresh Expressions Vision Day
February 1, 2013
First Baptist Church, Greensboro

Children's Choir Festival
February 9, 2013
First Baptist Church, High Point

Youth Choir Festival
March 1-2, 2013
First Baptist Church, Greensboro

New Ministers Luncheon
March 4, 2013
CBFNC offices, Winston-Salem

Building Blocks of Christian Coaching (501 Class)
March 8-9, 2013
CBFNC offices, Winston-Salem

2013 CBFNC General Assembly
March 15-16, 2013
First Baptist Church, Lumberton

Mission Madness (Youth Retreat)
April 12-14, 2013
Chesapeake, VA

Establishing a Dynamic Coaching Relationship (502 Class)
May 20-21, 2013
CBFNC offices, Winston-Salem

OASIS 2013
July 15-17, 2013
Campbell University

2013 Elevating Preaching Conference
September 23, 2013
Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem

Visit *www.CBFNC.org* to register and for more information.

The Gathering is published six times a year. All questions may be directed to Sarah Mitchell, (336) 759-3456 or (888) 822-1944 or smitchell@cbfnc.org. For story submissions, contact Sarah Mitchell for requirements and deadlines.

November/December 2012 • Vol. 17 Issue 6 **Bringing Baptists of North Carolina Together for Christ-Centered Ministry**

The Gathering

of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

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What I Did On My Summer Vacation

by Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator

It's been quite a while since I was asked to write an essay on my summer vacation – 5th grade, I think. But it seems an especially appropriate thing to do again.

In 2009, following the lead of a growing number of congregations that had established sabbatical leave policies for their ministers, the CBFNC Coordinating Council established such a policy for our Coordinators. In 2010, Rick Jordan, our longest tenured Coordinator, became the first CBFNC staff member to avail himself of a sabbatical. I was eligible in 2011, but after prayerful reflection and conversation with the Coordinating Council, decided to wait until 2012.

The title of my proposal was "Silver and Gold – Utilizing Sabbatical to Celebrate Significant Life and Ministry Milestones." 2012 has been a banner year for me: the twenty-fifth (silver) anniversary of ordination, seminary graduation, marriage, and the start of full-time vocational ministry; the eighth anniversary of service to CBFNC; and the fiftieth anniversary (gold) of my birth!

My sabbatical included the following major components:

- A "bucket list" trip to Alaska with Kim to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary
- CBF General Assembly in Ft. Worth, Texas
- Studies at Indiana University in Indianapolis
- A trip to four Canadian cities (Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and Quebec City) with a focus on visiting CBF missions personnel and Canadian Baptist leaders, including preaching in two Canadian churches (one English, one French)
- A rainy but restful week on the North Carolina coast
- Time at home between some of the above trips for rest, recovery, preparation, reading, and exercise

The benefits of my sabbatical were many. Here is a sample:

- **Rest** – This seems obvious, as sabbatical comes from the same root as Sabbath, and literally means rest. But few folks in our time, especially those in mid-life with many responsibilities, take the time for rest. Ironically, we who claim to be People of the Book are no better than the rest of our culture in keeping the fourth commandment.
- **Renewal of call** – While I greatly enjoyed every aspect of my sabbatical, I returned to work excited about my ministry and energized to pursue it with all my heart, soul, mind, and body.
- **Re-tooling** – The reading, formal study in Indiana, and visits with Baptists in Canada provided me with new ideas and tools that will make me a more effective leader in our fellowship.
- **Empowering Staff** – We had a plan for CBFNC staff to cover my duties while I was away. They did a fantastic job and emerged equipped and empowered to lead and serve in ways that hadn't been available to them before.

I believe that sabbatical leaves are even more important for congregational ministers than for those who lead ministry organizations like CBFNC (see article below from Greg Rogers). Pastors and staff ministers face relentless pressures to lead their congregations in these difficult times of cultural transition, while also being on call 24/7 to provide pastoral care to their flocks. Tired, over-stressed ministers can't lead and serve at their highest capacity. A sabbatical for your minister is a gift, not only to the minister, but also to your church. If your church doesn't have a sabbatical policy, please consider creating one. CBFNC will be sharing resources for creating sabbatical policies on our website to help churches in this area.

I realize there are very few jobs in our country in which persons are granted a sabbatical. Because of that fact, some congregations are reluctant to even consider granting sabbaticals to their ministers. But sabbatical is a biblical commandment that is beneficial to both the shepherds of our congregations and the congregations themselves. Unless they own a business, congregational leaders can't provide sabbaticals to most workers. But they can provide them for their ministers. Shouldn't we follow the will of God rather than the dictates of the culture when we have the power to do so?

Sabbatical Testimonial

by Greg Rogers, Pastor, Oakmont Baptist Church, Greenville

Our church provides a sabbatical for our ministers every five years. Thanks to Oakmont's generosity, I have been blessed to have experienced two sabbaticals during my recent ministry as senior pastor. Both sabbaticals were life-changing and life-giving seasons of physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual renewal. I was able to dismount the galloping horse of pastoral ministry for a brief time and focus on "being" more than "doing." A sabbatical allowed me the luxury to think, reflect, and pray without a sermon to write, a study to prepare, or a pastoral care need to address. I was able to reconnect with my wife and children and reconnect with my God. I was nourished and nurtured through overseas trips, conferences, books, worship with other congregations, and just moving through and enjoying an agenda-less day without any other focus for the moment.

If we are to reach our God-intended potential, we must observe a weekly Sabbath devoid of work, pace, and activities to replenish the well and refresh the spirit. And periodically, ministers need some form of Sabbatical – an intentional pulling away from the "routine" where God has a chance to speak to us and form us more fully in the likeness of His son.

From the church's perspective, a sabbatical is an excellent retention tool that encourages longer clergy tenures. I'm convinced that one of the reasons our church staff has an accumulated tenure of 180 years is due to Oakmont's outstanding commitment to care for the health and welfare of our congregational ministers and staff.

Stories From the Field — God at Work in Santa Elena, Belize

From Travis Russell, Minister of Children, Youth, and Families, First Baptist Church, Whiteville:

Our trip to Belize was wonderful! We arrived in Belize on Saturday and stayed at the Aguada Hotel in Santa Elena. On Sunday, we attended Sunday School and worship at Santa Elena Baptist, meeting Pastor Manny and the Santa Elena congregation. There were two other American groups at church that morning. Everyone was very welcoming and inviting, making us feel right at home.

On Monday, our group met up with our partnering team from Oakmont Baptist, Greenville, NC, led by their Missions Director, Jimmie Hughes. We worked together each day, painting the school in the mornings and hosting VBS each afternoon. On the first day, we had approximately 30 children. Each day the number of children grew substantially, and by Thursday and Friday we had approximately 120 children.

Our team felt very blessed by our trip and looks forward to going back. We certainly felt God's presence working in us and all around us. Not to sound cliché, but the people of Belize truly ministered to us and were the image of Christ for us just as much as, if not more than, we were to them. Thank you, CBFNC, for paving the way for us in Belize, and allowing this opportunity to be possible.

From Hal Melton, Associate Pastor/Missions and Senior Adult Ministries, Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh:

In May, our Medical/Dental mission team spent a week in Valley of Peace working with school children and village adults. One amazing story from the week: On Monday, a father came riding up to the clinic with a little boy named Jason on the back of his bike shouting "Help me! Help me! My son has been bitten by a snake!" It was a "Tommy Goff," a poisonous snake!

Our team felt very blessed by our trip and looks forward to going back! We certainly felt God's presence working in us and all around us.

Our two doctors were busy helping a man whose throat had been cut in a fight in a bar in Belmopan and needed serious attention. They also knew there was nothing they could do to help the boy without anti-venom. So Ryan and Wendee Smith jumped in one of our vans with the father and son and sped to the hospital in Belmopan, 20 miles away down a rough dirt road. As soon as they arrived, the doctors started an IV of anti-venom and told the couple they had saved the boy's life by getting him there so quickly. As the team was packing up to leave on their last day of work, the father and Jason came to say goodbye. The father said the team had saved his son and he wanted to pay us, but he had no money. They assured him that it was God who was in control of the situation, having the medical team there at the right time in the right place to be able to serve. The father asked if he could pray. As the team circled around him, he fell to his knees and prayed one of the most fervent prayers they had ever heard. It was in Spanish, but many "Dios" and "hallelujahs" and "gracias gloria Spiritus" and "Jesus" were heard. There was not a dry eye to be found. The team will never forget the worship they experienced in that moment.

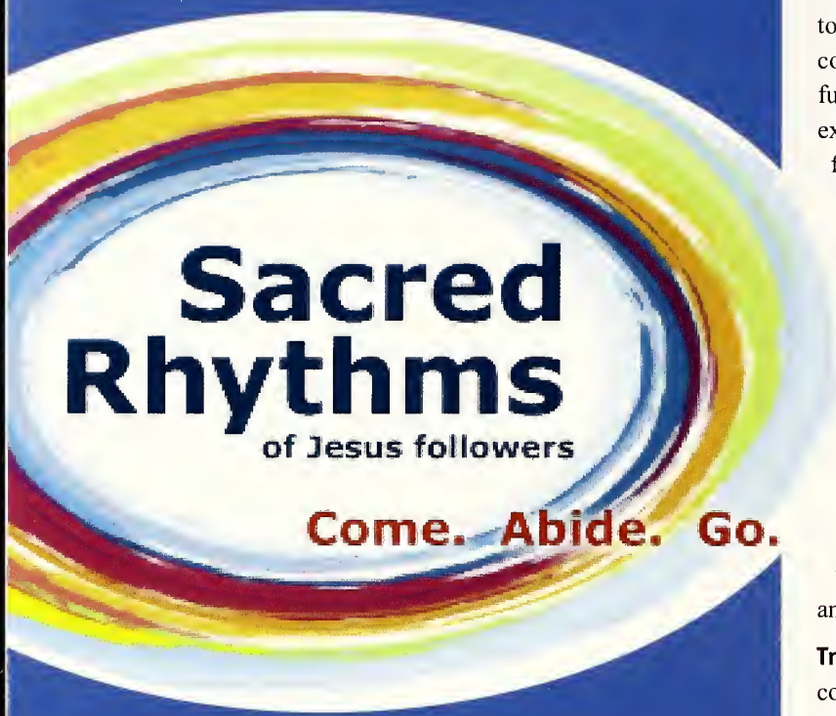
Our mission to do finishing work on the Santa Elena School in August was also an incredible experience. When we arrived, our team were absolutely blown away! The church members and other NC and Wisconsin church groups had done an amazing job of plastering the walls, painting, and building a three-room bathroom, with running water, septic tank and a toilet and sink in each room. The school room closest to the road was completed, giving us a secure room for all our tools and supplies on site. We just stood for a long time with our mouths open wide! Praises to God flowed freely for the blessings bestowed on this community and Santa Elena Baptist Church!

By the end of the week, all doors and windows were in place. All ceilings were painted and a second coat of paint was on most walls. We had a lot of help from new friends Mike and Leslie, in addition to Manny and Paul who had helped in February. The children in the neighborhood were still out of school, wanting to help by sweeping, painting, and "playing school" in the one finished classroom.

Our prayers are now that the government gives approval to the school and it will be able to open for classes in January!

We are still looking for individuals and churches to help construct the Second Floor of Santa Elena School. E-mail Linda Jones, ljones@cbfnc.org, *for more information.*

Save the date for the 2013 CBFNC General Assembly!



March 15-16, 2013
First Baptist Church in Lumberton

Friday, March 15
Welcome and Orientation
Ministry Workshop Sessions
Fellowship Dinner
(requires pre-registration)
Evening Worship
Fellowship Reception

Saturday, March 16
Ministry Workshop Session
Ministry Celebration
(including adoption of 2013-2014 budget and council election)
Morning Worship

Learn more about General Assembly details and registration, divinity student experience, ministry workshop titles, discounted hotel options, childcare reservations, and exhibitor applications at *www.cbfnc.org*.

Coaching For You and Your Church

CBFNC, in partnership with Eddie Hammett, is working to create a "coaching culture" among CBFNC churches, councils, staff and leadership. A coaching culture creates and fuels collaboration, creativity, cooperation and discovers and explores options that move leaders and congregations forward from maintenance to missional ministry strategies.

Creating a Coaching Culture includes:

Coach Training March 8-9, 2013 – The Friday/Saturday training dates will make it more convenient for lay leaders to participate.

A Coach Approach to Strategy Planning: Discovering and Embracing Your Future – a coach guided 3- to 4- month process designed to help you evaluate what's working, what's not working and where God is leading your church for the next 3-5 years. The coach works to frame practical and relevant next steps for leadership and congregation to move into their discerned future.

Training for Congregational Coaches – for those who have completed the basic coach training, Eddie will be introducing possibilities and models for coaching congregations. This initial overview is scheduled for December 7, 2012, at the CBFNC office in Winston Salem.

Coaching Services for pastors/staff in their first years of ministry in a given location; or those who are facing steep learning curves or transitions in ministry.

Coach-Assisted Peer Learning Groups targeting distinct learning curves, professional or congregational challenges. The coach approach empowers the group to explore and discover solutions as well as support each other in finding and taking next steps.

Visit *www.cbfnc.org/coaching* for additional details, articles and endorsements by CBFNC leaders who have experienced the power of coaching in their ministries.

Send e-mail to *EHammett@cbfnc.org* to alert him of your interests, and he will share additional details about costs, schedule and tools needed.

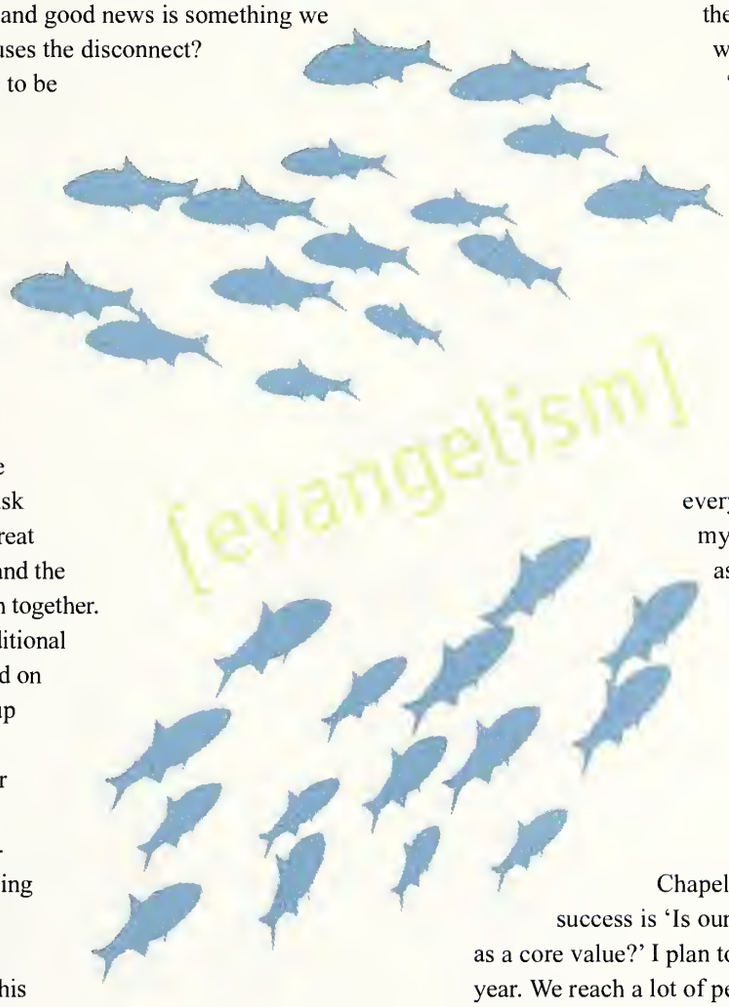
CBF Global Missions Field Personnel Off-Field Assignments in Our Area

Keith Holmes and Mary Van Rheenen
serving in The Netherlands
Columbia, MO, August-December 2012
Raleigh, NC, January-June 2013
holmes@thefellowship.info

What is Your Evangelism Style?

by Rick Jordan, CBFNC Church Resources Coordinator

Evangelism! What does that word stir within you? For many, the word is associated with manipulation and marketing. Yet, the gospel is "good news" and good news is something we love to share. What causes the disconnect? Is there a CBF-ish way to be evangelistic as an individual and as a church?



These were some of the issues three churches wrestled with over the past nine months in a CBFNC-sponsored pilot project created and implemented by the CBFNC Evangelism Task Force. An overnight retreat brought 10 laypersons and the pastor from each church together. Following that, two additional half-day retreats focused on readings and small group gatherings.

One powerful aid for discussion was videoed conversations with non-Christians. After watching a video of the famous illusionist (and atheist) Penn Jillette talk about his appreciation of someone willing to speak with him about his soul's salvation, one retreat participant said later that when he saw an advertisement for a Penn and Teller show, he began praying for Mr. Jillette. One of the "attempts" at evangelism is this type of "praying behind someone's back." Another participant spoke of how he now sees persons he rides with on the bus every day in a different way. They are not strangers; they are children God loves. They are not so much "lost" as "missing."

Is there a CBF-ish way to be evangelistic as an individual and as a church?

Randy Carter, pastor of First, Hillsborough, says the project helped him decide to have an annual emphasis on evangelism. "This freed us to think of evangelism in ways unique to our church and our setting. We actually have many things we are doing already that with a little tweaking can be used evangelistically. The project helped us to see evangelism as a process rather than a program."

Ivy Bishop, a layperson from First, Hillsborough, says, "The best thing about the entire process is the give and take with other brothers and sisters in Christ. 'Iron sharpens iron,' and hearing from others what the Spirit says to them not only brings wisdom but is an encouragement to everyone. Excitement about evangelism is catching. At each gathering, new and interesting ideas came up. A fresh concept of evangelism was built from meeting to meeting."

Paula Dunham, a layperson from First, Dunn, says she learned, "I can evangelize to people each and every day in whatever situation that I find myself in. I tended to think of evangelism as a Billy Graham type encounter, but I am now more knowledgeable about witnessing in day-to-day situations. It made me think that is exactly what Jesus did. While he preached to and reached large crowds at times, He also had a huge impact on people in individual, daily encounters."

Rob Tennant, pastor of Hillsong, Chapel Hill, states, "I think a measure of success is 'Is our church now ready to raise evangelism as a core value?' I plan to have a targeted emphasis on this next year. We reach a lot of people who are looking for a church already through our website and other outreach efforts. But I would hope that with this emphasis, we will soon see people coming to Christ who weren't planning on becoming members of any church until one of our church members began having 'holy conversations' with them."

One Hillsong member has already begun doing this. As she underwent cancer treatments, she made friends with others who were also going through treatments. Two of those persons have grown increasingly interested in knowing more about Jesus and God's love for them. Heidi Soden from Hillsong comments, "I am so encouraged to know that I can do this. Suddenly I am not afraid and dreading talking to people. Before, there was always an agenda like, how many people are you bringing with you into the Kingdom? This is very freeing and fun!" Rob continued, "I'd love it if five years from now what people think of when they hear 'CBFNC' is, 'those are the people who have a great way to do evangelism!'"

The Evangelism Task Force has begun making plans for future projects and seminars. Contact Rick Jordan at *rjordan@cbfnc.org* or (336) 759-3456 if you would like to learn more.

Young Ministers Series: Rich Goodier, Pastor, Mount Hermon Baptist Church, Durham

This is the second in a series of articles written by young ministers in our Fellowship. They were asked to share hopes and fears about the Baptist church or to write about something they are currently passionate about.

I remember being told by my pastor growing up, "You cannot fully understand Christianity in a comparative religion course. You must study it alongside of competing political theories." This blew my mind and continues to challenge the way I understand my Lord.

From the appearance of man and woman in Genesis to the culmination of all things in Revelation, God seeks to establish humanity into a political order. We often forget this because the world distracts us with idealistic promises of democracy or hope in one political candidate or true change from another political party. But the Kingdom of God is our politics.

The Christian faith is fundamentally political because Jesus is fundamentally political. The titles attributed to Jesus, like Christ and Lord, were technically political titles in the Jewish and Roman cultures of the first century. The very name "Jesus," means "salvation," and gestures to the quintessential promise political figures then and now offer the citizenry. Christ is our salvation, and he will reign as king.

This logo comes from a sermon series currently given by Rich Goodier at his church on "Faith and Politics."

Christ's Kingdom is not from this world, yet it certainly is invading this world. And when one political power enters the space of an incumbent political power, there will be waves! It was true then; it is true now.

Great Christians like Martin Luther King, Jr., and Oscar Romero who did not bifurcate their lives between earthly and heavenly politics made waves like Jesus and gave their lives for it. They understood that the politics we practice on earth are the very politics of the Kingdom.

So often we Christians, in hopes of making a difference in current political discourse, are co-opted into a political party or theory. Instead of being a voice crying out in a lost world, we abdicate our voice to the political structures of that very world. Where is the voice of the Church today? Why have so many of us given such unquestioned loyalty to one candidate or another? Where on Facebook are Christians praising and criticizing politics based on the standards of God's Kingdom instead of defending one party and attacking the other based on allegiances other than Jesus?

There are Christians rising above a devotion to one political party. There are even some who are calling others to return to the Political Jesus, proclaiming on social networks that #JesusIsMyCandidate. The movement is an encouraging one, though too tame, too democratic.

In reality, Jesus is no candidate ... as if we would elect Jesus as our President in 2012 ... as if Jesus would want to be President of our nation (cf. John 6:15). We do not elect Jesus; rather he elects us. At his name, he elects all of humanity to bow the knee and confess Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. The question is, will we submit to that sort of kingdom?

We the Church must remember what it means to be the Church, a new social and political reality, embodying the best of what humanity can be in this world, pointing the way through a wilderness of broken political systems and broken political promises. We can stand as a witness to the world, calling them to a new and supernatural politic, even guiding earthly kingdoms in this politic as long as they are willing to do it on Christ's terms.

Cross before Crown.
Sacrifice before Splendor.
Giving up one's life before the Glory of true political power.

Until then, we the Church stand as a voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Will you be that voice?

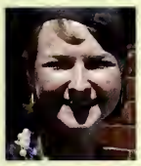
Rich Goodier
A.B. in Biology at Harvard University, 2001
Missionary to Central Asia, 2002-2004
M.Div. at Duke Divinity School, 2010
Currently serving as Pastor of Mount Hermon Baptist Church in Durham since 2010

2013 CBFNC Theological Education Scholarship Recipients Each listing includes hometown, church, school attending, and vocational goal. To learn more about giving to theological education through CBFNC, visit www.cbfnc.org.

Scholars from North Carolina who attend Out-of-State or Non-Partner Schools

Jennie Nohemi Campos
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Sanford
Youth Pastor

Jessica Lynne Chastain
George W. Truett Theological Seminary
Murphy, NC
Cullowhee, Cullowhee
Social Justice Ministry



Mary Katherine Christian
McAfee School of Theology
Hickory, NC
Northside Drive, Atlanta
Music Ministry

Nicholas Hall Clanton
George W. Truett Theological Seminary
Concord, NC
Cullowhee, Cullowhee
College Ministry

Miriam Sarai Juarez
Baptist University of the Americas
Marion, NC
Pimera Iglesia Bautista Ebenezer, Marion
Youth and Children's Minister

Mary Little
Boston University School of Theology
Marion, NC
First, Jamaica Plain, MA
Pastoral Ministry

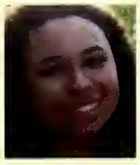
Benito Francisco Lopez
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
San Antonio, TX
Pastor

Karla Claret Lopez
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana,
San Antonio, TX
Missionary

Lucero Elena Lopez
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana,
San Antonio, TX
Children's Ministry

Martha Elena Lopez
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana,
San Antonio, TX
Outreach Ministry

Ngoma N. Masiala
Liberty University
Raleigh, NC
To bring people of shared interests
and beliefs together



Jessica Maris Moses
George W. Truett Theological Seminary
Wilmington, NC
Winter Park, Wilmington
To serve wherever led by the Lord

Ryan Phillip Saunders
George W. Truett Theological Seminary
Durham, NC
First, Waco
Sports and Recreation Ministry

Barbara Andrea Sostaita
Salem College
Winston-Salem, NC
Rural Hall, NC
Full-Time Ministry

Nelly Alejandra Tello
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Sanford
Minster to children in poverty

Karen Zimmerman
McAfee School of Theology
Mebane, NC
First, Jamestown
International Missions

In an upcoming edition of The Gathering, watch for an important announcement on CBFNC partner school scholarship recipients of The Lolley Fund for Theological Education. The Lolley Fund is an initiative of the CBFNC Endowment Trust established in 2008 and honors Randall and Lou Lolley.

2013 CBFNC Theological Education Scholarship Recipients

CBFNC is honored to partner with divinity schools in NC in support of theological education. These divinity schools are Campbell, Duke Baptist House of Studies, Gardner-Webb, and Wake Forest. During the 2012-2013 academic year, CBFNC is providing $11,000 per school for theological education scholarships. These funds are sent directly to the school where staff selects scholars and distributes funds. Each school determines the number of scholars that are selected.

M. Christopher White School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb

www.gardner-webb.edu/admissions/graduate/divinity
Boiling Springs, NC Degrees Offered: Master of Divinity, Doctor of Ministry

Susan C. Borders
Shelby, NC
Washington Missionary, Shelby
Christian Counselor

Jeffrey Carter
Shelby, NC
First, Valdese
Music Ministry and Christian Counseling

Kyle Chastain
Canton, NC
Double Springs, Shelby
Church Planter

David Hodge
Murfreesboro, TN
Ardmore, Winston-Salem
Youth and Children's Minister

Chelsy Woods Mitchell
Durham, NC
Hope Valley, Durham
Chaplain

Terry K. Roach
Marion, NC
Clinchfield, Marion
Pastor

Lynnette J. Sills
Asheville, NC
First, Asheville
Christian Education and Formation

Brian T. Simpson
Gastonia, NC
First, Lincolnton
Pastor

Wake Forest School of Divinity

www.divinity.wfu.edu
Winston-Salem, NC
Degrees Offered: Master of Divinity, MA of Religion,
M Div/Juris Doctor, M Div/MA in Counseling

Perry Dixon
Louisville, KY
Highland, Louisville
Youth Minister

Bryan Freeman
Greenville, SC
First, Greenville
College Minister or
Denominational Leadership

Melissa Kessler
Kernersville, NC
First, Kernersville
Pastoral Ministry or Chaplaincy

Rob Lemons
Clemmons, NC
Ardmore, Winston-Salem
Missions or Church Administration

Jamie Sims
Douglasville, GA
Via Faith Community, Winston-Salem
Food Justice Ministry

Ben Wines
Goldsboro, NC
First, Goldsboro
Youth Minister

2013 CBFNC Theological Education Scholarship Recipients

Campbell University Divinity School

www.campbell.edu/divinity, Buies Creek, NC
Degrees Offered: Master of Divinity,
MA in Christian Education, M Div/MBA, Doctor of Ministry,
M Div/MA in Community Counseling

Molly Rushing
Wilmington, NC
Crabtree Valley, Raleigh
Church Communication

Lisa Grissom
Raleigh, NC
Westwood, Cary
Pastor

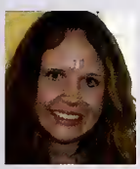
Alicia Turner
Boiling Springs, NC
First, Kernersville
Children's Minister

Daniel Heath
Wilson, NC
First, Wilson
Youth Minister

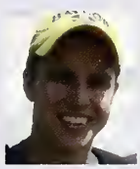
Tyler Wood
Smithfield, NC
First, Smithfield
Missions or Pastor

Baptist House of Studies at Duke Divinity School

www.divinity.duke.edu/programs/baptisthouse, Durham, NC
Degrees Offered: Master of Divinity, Master of Theology, MA of Theological Studies, Doctor of Theology



Jeanne Cross
Moulton, AL
Yates, Raleigh
Missions



Tyler Smoot
Houston, TX
Humble Area,
Humble, TX
Vocational Ministry

Colby Whittaker
Winchester, KY
Yates, Raleigh
Preaching and Adult Discipleship

10,000 Pound Challenge

by Cecelia Beck, Cleveland County Potato Project

For the last two years, CBFNC has sponsored Local Mission Engagement Grants for projects starting in April and ending July 31. In order to receive a grant, the church must work with one or more other churches and an outside organization. This year, 13 churches received grants! The Cleveland County Potato Project is one of the recipients of the grant. Ten churches, two businesses, one high school, Gardner-Webb University — and more than 400 volunteers — have challenged themselves to produce 100,000 pounds of potatoes this year! Cecelia Beck has been able to participate in sharing the potatoes. Hear her story ...

As a CBF Field Personnel working in a challenged neighborhood in Shelby, I am aware that many of my neighbors are hungry. There are several households just around the corner who do not have electricity or running water. Folks simply cannot afford rent and utilities. Fortunately none of those households have small children. There are, however, homes where children live that struggle daily to have enough resources to pay bills and eat at the same time. One of those homes has six children, and the four oldest come to my home often to visit. When they visit, I always offer bananas, apples, whatever I have on hand because many times when they come to my home on a late summer afternoon, they have had nothing to eat all day.

Their family is just one that has received several boxes of potatoes from the Cleveland County Potato project. From conversations with the children, I know that on many days the potatoes are the main course of the only meal they have that day. The Potato Project has not only provided food, it has provided encouragement. I have personally delivered thousands of pounds of potatoes to my neighbors in the past couple of years, and the refrain that is heard most often from the recipients is, "This is a blessing."

New Contributing CBFNC Partner Churches (As of October 4, 2012)

Carolina Crossing, Ellerbe

Lillington, Lillington

Ministers on the Move

Compiled by Jack Causey, Ministerial Resources Coordinator

Our encouragement and support go to the following ministers who have recently moved:

Jeffrey Sholar is now serving as Pastor of the Cedar Falls Baptist Church in Fayetteville.

Allen Winters has begun his ministry at Temple Baptist Church in Wilmington as Minister to Families.

The congregation of the Olive Chapel Baptist Church in Apex has called **Paul Arnold** as Pastor.

Knightdale Baptist Church has called **Joe Johnston** as Youth Pastor.

White Oak Baptist Church of Clayton has called **Todd Higginson** as Pastor.

First Baptist Church of Statesville has called **Landon Senn** as Minister of Youth and **Melissa Wilson** as Minister of Children and Families.

Erin Rourke Collier has joined the staff of First Baptist Church of Lumberton as Minister to Children.

Hope Valley Baptist Church in Durham has called **Bill Bigger** as Pastor.

Stuart Lamkin has been called as Pastor of Hickory Rock Baptist Church in Louisburg.

Alicia Turner has been called to serve as Minister to Children and Missions for First Baptist Church of Kernersville.

First Baptist Church of Tryon has called **Candy Wilson** to join their staff as Minister of Music and Christian Formation.

Jo Ann Stancil has been called to join the staff of the Wake Forest Baptist Church in Wake Forest as Minister of Education and Administration.

Winter Park Baptist Church of Wilmington has called **Allison Lairmore** as Minister with Children.

When you make a move or know of someone who has changed places of ministry, let us know at jcausey@cbfnc.org. **For assistance to search committees and ministers seeking vocational discernment, visit our reference and referral page on our website at www.cbfnc.org or call 336-759-3456 or 888-822-1944.**

Coordinator Visits August 2012 -September 2012

First, Burnsville
First, Butner
First, Elkin
First, Hillsborough
First, Lexington
First, Lumberton
First, Mocksville
First, Mount Airy
First, Southern Pines
First, Waynesville
First, Winston-Salem
Forest Hills, Raleigh
Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs
Grace, Statesville
Grace Crossing, Charlotte
Hominy, Candler
Mountain View, Hickory
North Carolina Baptist Women in Ministry, Greensboro
Oakmont, Greenville
Park Road, Charlotte
St. Peters, Charlotte
Tabernacle, Raleigh
Trinity, Raleigh
Unity Christian International, Fayetteville
Watts Street, Durham
Westwood, Cary
Winterville, Winterville

The Gathering

of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

Cooperative Baptist FELLOWSHIP

phone: 336.759.3456 • phone: 888.822.1944 • fax: 336.759.3459 • cbfnc@cbfnc.org • www.cbfnc.org

Larry Hovis ..... Executive Coordinator..... LHovis@cbfnc.org
Ka'thy Gore Chappell ... Leadership Development Coordinator.... KChappell@cbfnc.org
Rick Jordan ..... Church Resources Coordinator ..... RJordan@cbfnc.org
Linda Jones ..... Missions Coordinator..... LJones@cbfnc.org
Jim Hylton ..... Business Administration Coordinator... JHylton@cbfnc.org
Jack Causey ..... Ministerial Resources Coordinator..... JCausey@cbfnc.org
Laura Barclay ..... Social Ministries Coordinator ..... LBarclay@cbfnc.org
Wanda Kidd ..... College Ministry Coordinator.... WKidd@cbfnc.org
Eddie Hammett ... Church and Clergy Coach ..... EHammett@cbfnc.org
Javier Benitez .....Hispanic Ministry Leader Coach.. Rocafuerte90@hotmail.com
Nancy Parks ..... Programs Manager..... NParks@cbfnc.org
Sarah Mitchell .... Communications Manager ..... SMitchell@cbfnc.org
Gail McAlister .... Financial Manager..... GMcalister@cbfnc.org
Derek Wilhelm .... Administrative Assistant ..... DWilhelm@cbfnc.org

Regional Coordinators

Region 1 – Western: Gail Coulter 828.698.2385
Region 2 – Foothills: David Smith 828.758.8428
Region 3 – Triad: Bill Leathers 336.774.3975
Region 4 – South Central: Drag Kimrey 910.276.8865
Region 5 – North Central: Virginia Taylor.... 919.824.7890
Region 6 – Capital: Mack Thompson 919.781.2229
Region 7 – Southeast: Mike Johnson 910.422.3387
Region 8 – Northeast: Jesse Croom 252.482.3908

CBFNC College Ministers

Ashley Mangrum ..... UNC Chapel Hill ..... amangrum@cbfnc.org
Aileen Lawrimore ..... Western Carolina ..... alawrimore@cbfnc.org
Lawrence Powers ..... East Carolina..... lpowers@cbfnc.org
Jeanne Cross ..... Duke University ..... jcross@cbfnc.org
Chris Towles ..... Wake Forest..... towlescj@wfu.edu

Coordinating Council
Donna Bissette, Winston-Salem, **Moderator**
Ray Ammons, Gastonia, **Moderator-Elect**
Steve Little, Marion, **Past Moderator**
Lisa Rust, Lumberton, **Recorder**
Mike Eddinger, Cary, **Treasurer**
Tommy Bratton, Asheville
David Hailey, Raleigh
Marion Horton, Knightdale
Rick Matthews, Winston-Salem
Martha McDowell, Laurinburg
Doug Murray, Wilson
Mike Queen, Greensboro
Susan Taylor, Chapel Hill

Endowment Management Board
Scott Hudgins, Winston-Salem
Judy LeCroy, Lexington
Bill McCullough, Youngsville
Anissa Nixon, Mocksville
Gene Puckett, Raleigh

Faith Formation Ministry Council
Allen Winters, Wilmington, **Chair**
Stella Perrin, Taylorsville, **Chair-Elect**
Beth Cockman-Wood, Sanford
Bryan Harris, Smithfield
Beth Heffner, Rutherfordton
Brian Harrington, Liberty
Sandi Hood, Hickory
Tyler Roach, Morganton
Katie Fam Roscoe, Southern Pines
Sophia Steibel, Boiling Springs

Leadership Development Ministry Council
Scott Hovey, Durham, **Chair**
Layne Rogerson, Greenville, **Chair-Elect**
Dennis Atwood, Mount Olive
Ed Beddingfield, Fayetteville
Sarah Boberg, Red Springs
Rendell Hipps, Hickory
Matt Johnson, Belhaven
Shane Nixon, Mocksville
Mark Reece, Mount Airy
Nathan Rice, Southern Pines

Missions Ministry Council
Kent Cranford, Gastonia, **Chair**
Len Keever, Dunn, **Chair-Elect**
Elba Benitez, Pittsboro
Everette Clark, Enka
Blake Dempsey, Nashville
George Fuller, Raleigh
Brandon Hudson, Winston-Salem
Andrea Dellinger Jones, Raleigh
Nate Leonard, Kannapolis
Linda Winslow, Jamestown

CBF National Council Members from NC
Darryl Aaron, Winston-Salem
Roger Gilbert, Mount Airy
Don Gordon, Durham
Christopher Ingram, Elizabeth City
Glenn Phillips, Goldsboro
Alicia Porterfield, Wilmington
Blenda Price Sloniker, Hickory

Financial Report:

August 2012 Contributions — Undesignated - $112,362 — Designated - $215,663
September 2012 Contributions — Undesignated - $93,467 — Designated - $134,368
April 2012 - March 2013 Monthly Undesignated Goal: $128,837

FRESH EXPRESSIONS

Changing Church for a Changing World: A Fresh Expressions Vision Day

February 1, 2013
First Baptist Church, Greensboro

For more information, visit www.cbfnc.org.

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST
fellowship
OF NORTH CAROLINA
888-822-1944
www.cbfnc.org

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Together for Christ-Centered Ministry

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Upcoming Events ~ November/December Edition

Children's Mission Day
November 3, 2012
Edenton, Edenton

Fellowship on the Move
November 4, 2012
Peace Haven, Winston-Salem

Children's Mission Day
November 10, 2012
Forest Hills in Raleigh
Ardmore in Winston-Salem

Christian Education: The Issues and Possible Solutions for 2013-2015
November 16, 2012
CBFNC office in Winston-Salem

Introduction to Congregational Coaching
Onsite Face-to-Face Overview –
December 7, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.
CBFNC Office in Winston-Salem, NC
Follow up Teleclass for Q & A

Introduction to Coaching
January 14, 2013
CBFNC offices, Winston-Salem

Two-Day Congregational Coaching Training
January 14-15, 2013
CBFNC offices, Winston-Salem

Free Conference Call to Explore Christian Coaching
January 22, 2013, at 10am

2013 Youth Ski Retreat
January 25-27, 2013
Winterplace, WV

Collegiate Mid-Winter Retreat
January 26-27, 2013
Camp Mundo Vista, Sophia

Quickstart: An Introduction to Christian Coaching
January 28, 2013
CBFNC offices, Winston-Salem

Changing Church for a Changing World: A Fresh Expressions Vision Day
February 1, 2013
First Baptist Church, Greensboro

Children's Choir Festival
February 9, 2013
First Baptist Church, High Point

Youth Choir Festival
March 1-2, 2013
First Baptist Church, Greensboro

Building Blocks of Christian Coaching (501 Class)
March 8-9, 2013
CBFNC offices, Winston-Salem

2013 CBFNC General Assembly
March 15-16, 2013
First Baptist Church, Lumberton

Establishing a Dynamic Coaching Relationship (502 Class)
May 20-21, 2013
CBFNC offices, Winston-Salem

2013 Elevating Preaching Conference
September 23, 2013
Ardmore Baptist Church, Winston-Salem

Visit *www.CBFNC.org* to register and for more information.

The Gathering is published six times a year. All questions may be directed to Sarah Mitchell, (336) 759-3456 or (888) 822-1944 or smitchell@cbfnc.org. For story submissions, contact Sarah Mitchell for requirements and deadlines.

March/April 2012 • Vol. 17 Issue 2 ***Bringing Baptists of North Carolina Together for Christ-Centered Ministry***

The Gathering

of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

In This Edition

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PAGE 7 **Impacting Tomorrow**

PAGE 8 **CBF Offering for Global Missions**

PAGE 9 **Baptist Fellowship of Angier Hosts Health Screenings** by Irma Duke

doing Together what we could not accomplish Alone

Building Santa Elena School in Belize PAGE 3

Associational Principle Alive and Well in CBFNC

by Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator

Freedom is an extremely important value in the CBF family. We champion the freedom of the individual in biblical interpretation and the freedom of the local congregation in determining its faith and practice. Both types of freedom are exercised under the Lordship of Christ, to be sure, but we give obedience to no other human authority when it comes to matters of faith and conscience.

This emphasis on freedom, we believe, is based on Baptist principles born in the struggle for religious liberty 400 years ago, but we trace them even farther back to the Scriptures of both Testaments.

Still, we are not independent Baptists. This is where we part company with some who also bear the Baptist name. We call ourselves Cooperative Baptists because we believe, like many other Baptists before us, that we are to live in fellowship and mission with others who share our understanding of faith and practice. We are part of the stream of the Baptist family that has established organizations beyond the local church (some formal, some informal) that bring Baptist Christians and churches together for support and shared ministry. This conviction, that though we are free from outside interference and control yet are still called to band together, is called the associational principle.

Though we do not have formal organizations called "associations" in CBF life, we in CBF of North Carolina have developed numerous ways to exercise the associational principle:

Most CBF churches in NC, exercising their freedom in Christ, continue to relate to historic Baptist district associations in their community, though sadly, some have been disenfranchised by those associations.

The Western North Carolina Baptist Fellowship has emerged as a defacto district association in our CBFNC family, with officers, budget, regular gatherings and ministry programs.

Regional fellowship groups exist in various locations around the state, where ministers and laity come together for fellowship and support.

CBFNC hosts regional gatherings (often called Fellowship on the Move) in locations around the state that bring Baptists together for fellowship, worship and equipping for ministry.

Peer Learning Groups for ministers meet regularly, providing a structured opportunity for support and enrichment.

CBFNC has partnered with clusters of churches in geographic regions of the state to organize community mission projects.

While we do not feel called to reproduce a district association structure, we do sense a need to develop a system to be sure that no Cooperative Baptist congregation in our state "falls through the cracks," and is provided with fellowship, resources and support. Therefore, we are establishing a Regional Coordinators' Network, which is described in the accompanying article by Jack Causey. The primary duties of the Regional Coordinators, in the early days, will be to work with Jack to assist churches in pastoral transition, but eventually this system will enable us to better coordinate other regional ministries.

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is a principle-centered movement that can be traced to the beginning of the Baptist movement in the 17th century. But we exercise those principles in ways appropriate to the 21st century. The associational principle is a good example of that reality.

Regional Coordinators' Network

by Jack Causey, CBFNC Ministerial Resources Coordinator

Communication has never been more important than it is today. At CBFNC, we text, tweet, skype, send e-mails and ENews, make phone calls and send out printed newsletters all in an effort to inform, to build relationships and to offer resources to the ministers and churches that support us and connect with us.

Gail Coulter

David Smith

Bill Leathers

Drag Kimrey

Virginia Taylor

Mack Thompson

Mike Johnson

Jesse Croom

The word "fellowship" in our name indicates that we believe that the best way to communicate is through a personal relationship. With that in mind, we have created a network of eight regions with a volunteer Regional Coordinator in each of these regions to communicate and connect with the churches and ministers in his or her region.

The Regional Coordinators have been selected because of the keen interest that each of them has in assisting ministers and congregations to fulfill the mission that God has given them. They have a two-fold task. First of all, they are to connect with and encourage the ministers and congregations in their region by being available to them as they seek to be missional in their efforts for the Kingdom of God. They will point them to resources, partners and other ministers and congregations who might assist them. Networking through fellowship and shared experiences and resources is the present and future paradigm for churches to become missional.

The second task of the Regional Coordinators will be to assist ministers and churches in transition. This could be a church seeking a pastor or staff minister. In this regard, these coordinators may meet with appropriate leaders of the church to determine what kind of interim they need whether it is part time, full time or an intentional interim. The coordinator may then help them to locate an interim pastor or staff minister who will fit their needs. The Regional Coordinator may also train the search committee to develop a healthy search process and then refer them to me. I can provide them with resumes of ministers that match the minister's profile that they are seeking.

Ministers who desire to serve as an interim pastor or staff minister may contact their Regional Coordinator. Likewise, search committees of churches seeking a pastor or staff minister may initially contact their Coordinator.

Contact Jack Causey at *JCausey@cbfnc.org* or (888) 822-1944 or visit our website, *www.cbfnc.org/CareersandCalling/InterimMinistryNetwork.aspx*.

Doing Together What We Could Not Accomplish Alone

by Linda Jones, CBFNC Missions Coordinator

Does your church have a heart for missions? We would like you to help us construct a school in Santa Elena, Belize.

First, the backstory ...

Five years ago, an American businessman set out to build a school for the village of Santa Elena. When the economy took a downturn, he withdrew and deeded the land and partial structure to the church and to the Belize Baptist Association.

Now jump ahead to present day ...

There are many children attending preschool at Santa Elena Church who need a place to go to school. In addition, there are Spanish, Mayan, and Creole children in the village who attend overcrowded schools. This school will impact a very needy area. The building will also function as a community center and hurricane shelter for the entire village. When completed, the government will pay teacher salaries, assuring its future as an official school.

Our CBFNC churches ministering in Belize wanted to tackle a big endeavor for the Lord.

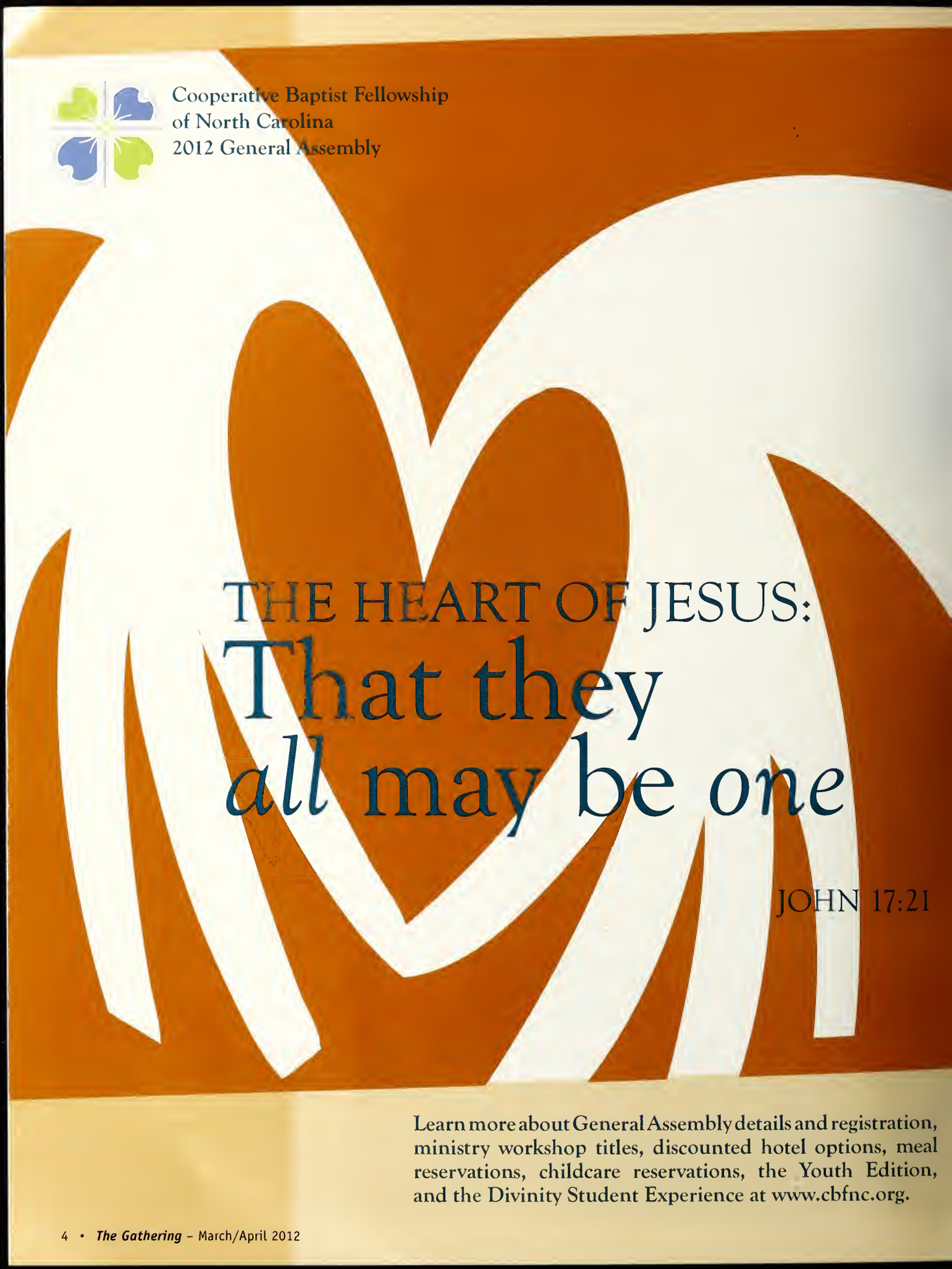
We have worked out the details of the costs of construction, where to stay, where to eat, etc. We will initially work on the first floor and ceiling in hopes of finishing soon to open the school on a limited basis. This is a worthwhile ministry that requires much effort and money. The Belize Baptist Association has fully endorsed this effort and is prepared to provide much of the construction labor. Quite a few CBFNC churches are collaborating together with Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh leading the way. In addition, we hope to collaborate with the Virginia Baptist Mission Board.

Would you consider joining us in this effort, whether it is a financial contribution or sending teams to Belize to help build or perhaps lead in VBS, BYBC or some other activity? This is an opportunity for all of us to do something together that we could not accomplish as a church by ourselves. It will make a big difference to the town of Santa Elena, Belize.

Contact me at the CBFNC office, (336) 759-3456 or ljones@cbfnc.org.

We really need you!

This project will receive your offerings at CBFNC's 2012 General Assembly. Join us March 23-24, 2012, at Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh. See information on pages 4-5.



Learn more about General Assembly details and registration, ministry workshop titles, discounted hotel options, meal reservations, childcare reservations, the Youth Edition, and the Divinity Student Experience at www.cbfnc.org.

March 23-24, 2012

Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh

Friday, March 23

11:00 a.m.	Registration and Exhibits open
11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Divinity Student Experience
12:30 p.m.	Welcome and Orientation
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Workshop Session 1
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Fellowship Time in Exhibit Hall
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Workshop Session 2
4:45 – 5:30 p.m.	Meet-Up Gatherings
4:45 – 6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Dinner
6:45 p.m.	Worship
8:15 p.m.	Fellowship Reception

Saturday, March 24

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast Fellowship
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Workshop Session 3
10:15 – 11:10 a.m.	Ministry Celebration & Business Session
11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Worship
12:45 p.m.	Divinity Student Experience

worship speaker

Neville Callam

Baptist World Alliance General Secretary

CBFNC 2012
General Assembly

YOUTH EDITION

March 23-24, 2012

Join us as we dive into Reconciliation — divorce, culture, homelessness, the justice system, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, bullies, immigration, and race.

The 2012 General Assembly Offering

Our CBFNC churches ministering in Belize have made a decision to do something big together ... something for the kingdom of God ... something they could not accomplish alone. A bare bones structure in Santa Elena will be transformed into a much-needed school for Spanish, Mayan and Creole students. The structure will also serve as a hurricane shelter and community center. Please join this effort to make a meaningful difference in a needy area!

SECOND ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST Photographs should illustrate this year's reconciliation theme: "The Heart of Jesus: That They All May Be One." **Entries are due by March 9th!** Visit www.cbfnc.org for more details.

Social Networking and the Church John Vestal ***Restorative Acts:*** ***The Miracles of Jesus and the Apostles*** Jim McConnell ***What the Bible Really Says About Women*** Sheri Adams ***Ministering to Veterans with PTSD*** Vince Arnold ***Addiction and Grace: Understanding Addiction & Ministry Options*** George Fuller ***Racial Reconciliation and the Body of Christ*** Nathan Parrish and Willard Bass ***Seeing the News Through Christian Eyes*** Cameron Jorgenson ***Circles: A Way to Cross Race and Class Lines*** Annette C. Snyder ***iGeneration*** Andy Jung ***Seeking Reconciliation in the Midst of Conflict*** Chris Gambill ***Helping to Heal: Ministry to the Grieving*** Beth Thompson ***Missions Unifies the Church in One Purpose*** Cara Lynn Vogel ***Worship that Reconciles*** Dan Day ***The Resurrection of Lottie Moon*** Glenn Jonas ***On Being Pastoral Prophets in the Public Square*** Brent Walker ***Reaching 20-Somethings Outside of Our Walls*** Wanda Kidd ***Reconciling with Children During Death, Divorce and Crisis*** Amanda Price ***Listening: The Other Side of Prayer*** Hal Melton ***The Beauty of Diversity in a Multicultural World*** Diana Godwin ***Skin, Status and Stalemates*** Hyaets Community ***Ministry Beyond Retirement*** Caralie Brown

New Ministry Endeavors at the Village of Hope, Ukraine

by Bill Mason, Site Coordinator and Board Member, Village of Hope, Ukraine

An Island Experience

Pastor Michael Edwards and the Benson Baptist Church in Benson came to the Village of Hope to aid the Bucha Church with Bible School and to sponsor a Dental Clinic. Final plans were worked out at the Village of Hope on Sunday afternoon at a joint meeting between Benson and the Bucha Church Bible School workers. The cooperation between the groups was outstanding. Both groups were well prepared and eager to get started.

Bible School began June 20th and lasted four days. On the first day there were 61 children from about age 3 up to teenagers, and, by the last day, there were 73! The children were from Bucha Church, Village of Hope, and the community around the Village.

The Bible School team consisted of two young women, six young men and seven adults. The teachers had two Ukrainian helpers, one of them acting as a translator. The Bible School had an island theme, and each day the group "visited" a different island from the Bible. The children and adults were very energetic during the activities.

A snack was served mid-morning, followed later by a light lunch. The group served ice cream cones on the last day, which were a big hit! After the closing, the children enjoyed playing on the Village grounds.

Five Full Chairs

The Dental Clinic was set up in the Laurel House. Dr. Larry Williams and Chris Underwood of Benson, four Ukrainian dentists and five dental assistants volunteered their time to work at the clinic. The clinic was run very professionally with good cooperation between the American and Ukrainian dentists.

All five chairs were full all day each day: 88 children from the Village of Hope, Bucha Church and community were examined; and 15 adults from the community also received treatment, some requiring extensive procedures. Of those examined, 56 children were given times to return for dental work, and of these, more than half had more than one tooth requiring attention.

All of the equipment and supplies were furnished by The Mercy Truck. The Mercy Truck is a mobile dental office and carries supplies and equipment that can be set up to have four more work stations for dental procedures.. The Mercy Truck is supported by donations and travels to orphanages.

Benson Baptist Church team came to the Ukraine with two major mission projects, the Bible School and the Dental Clinic. Each one of these would have been a major mission in itself. Both tasks were carried out professionally, and many people were helped with the efforts of the Benson Team and the Ukrainian volunteers.

Teams are welcome to come to the Village of Hope with creative, new ministries. Contact Bill Mason at (704) 292-9251 or Linda Jones at CBFNC (336) 759-3456 for information.

A side note: I lost a filling en route to the Ukraine and Dr. Larry did an outstanding job repairing my tooth!

impacting TOMORROW

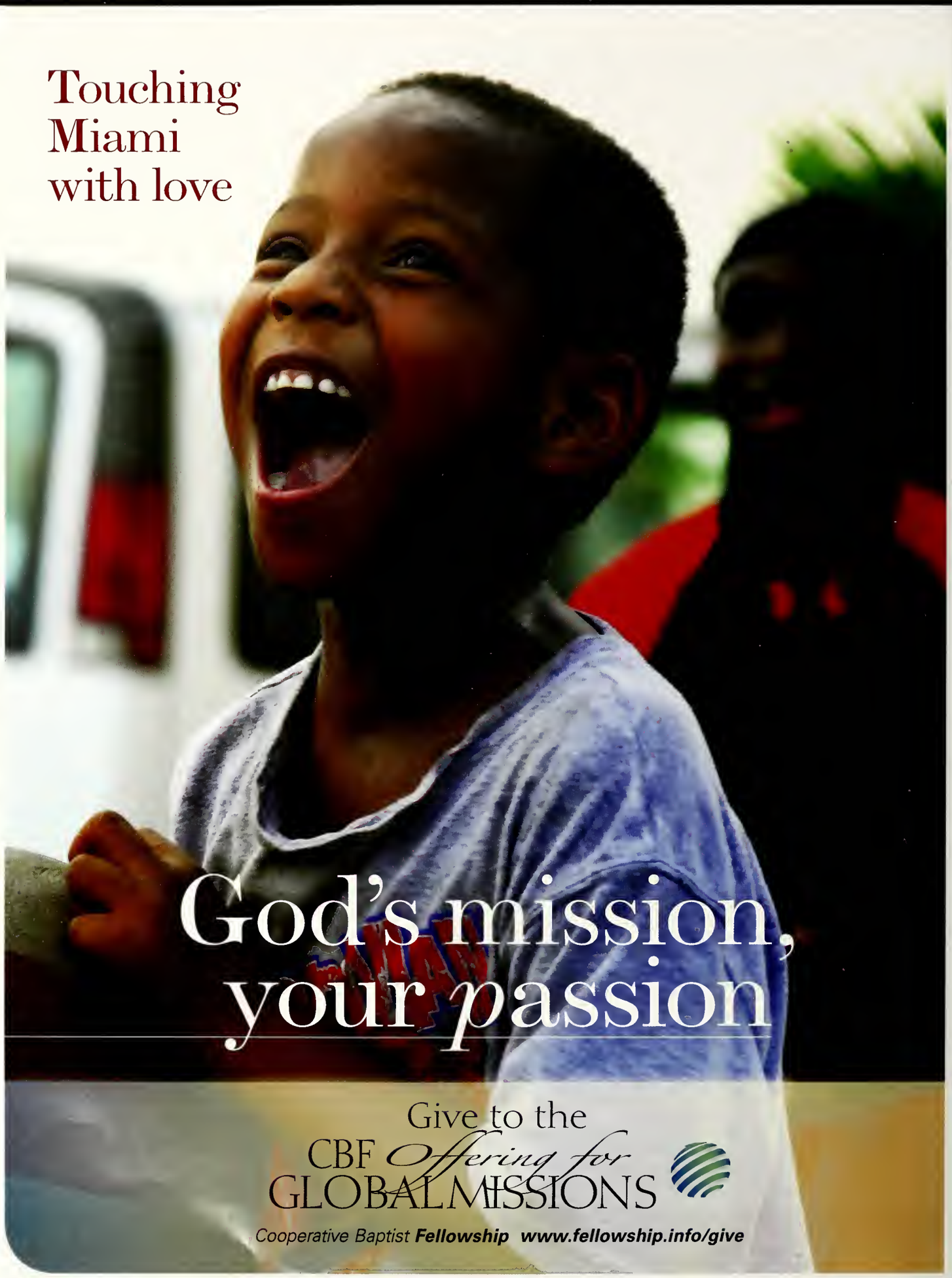
Traditional Churches Finding Their Future in God's Story

A Missional Event to Empower Churches

May 18-19, 2012
Providence Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.

Sponsored by The Columbia Partnership, Center for Congregational Health, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Desired Impact for Participating Churches includes: Rediscovering focus and mission; Celebrating successes in ministry; Networking with like-minded churches and leaders from the southeast and a variety of denominations; Inspiring leaders to press forward; and Discovering next steps and capture learnings from those at various stages of the missional journey. **For more information or to register, visit www.cbfnc.org.**


Touching Miami with love
God's mission, your passion
Give to the CBF Offering for GLOBAL MISSIONS
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship www.fellowship.info/give

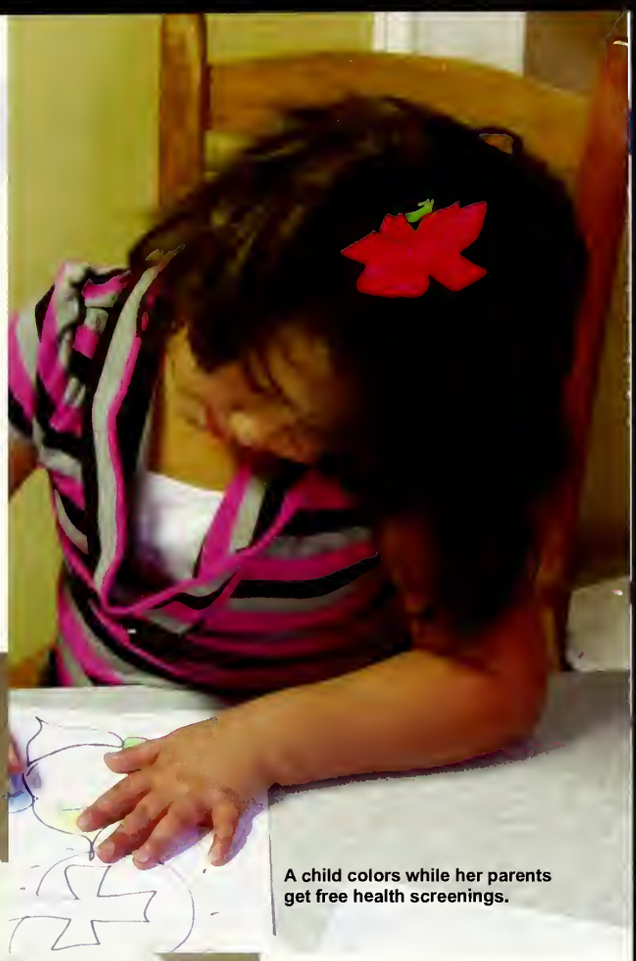
Baptist Fellowship of Angier Hosts Health Screenings

by Irma Duke, Baptist Fellowship of Angier

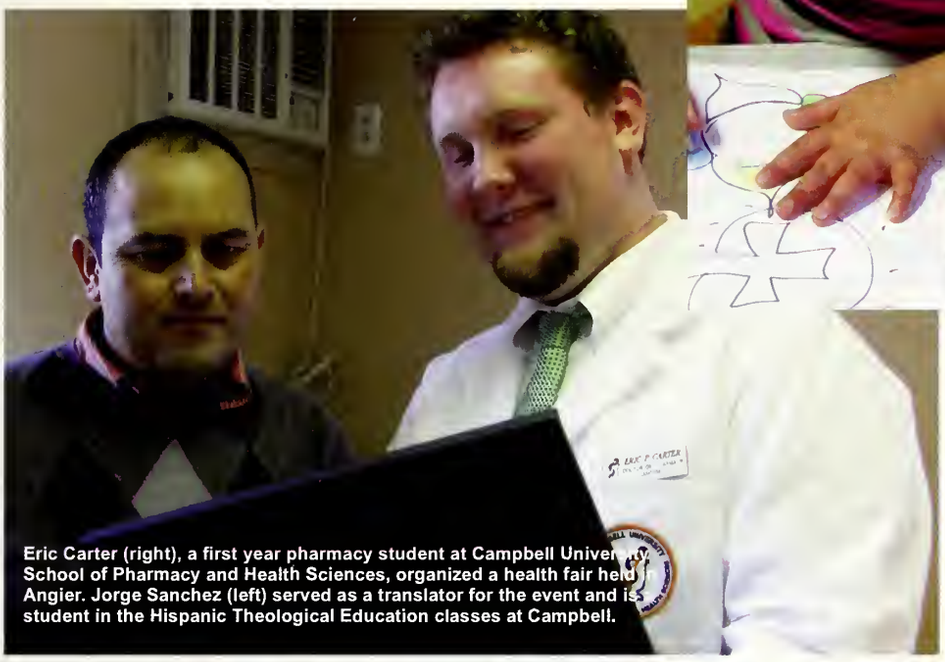
Dr. Lori Denning Duke and Baptist Fellowship of Angier recently hosted free health screenings for more than 30 Angier residents who do not qualify for medical assistance and referred several to local medical facilities because of laboratory abnormalities and serious symptoms.

Kappa Epsilon Fraternity of Campbell University School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences sponsored the health screenings with the assistance from the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPHA). Baptist Fellowship of Angier and Amistad Cristiana Church in Angier hosted the event.

In addition to providing blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose-level testing, the students provided consultation related to breast cancer, cardiovascular disease, nutrition and other health issues under the direction of Dr. Lori Denning Duke, a 2005 Campbell Pharmacy School graduate. Duke is practicing at Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital and is a member of Baptist Fellowship of Angier. In addition to the testing, students provided bags of fruit to the Angier residents who came, which illustrated that fruit is a healthy snack.



A child colors while her parents get free health screenings.



Eric Carter (right), a first year pharmacy student at Campbell University School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, organized a health fair held in Angier. Jorge Sanchez (left) served as a translator for the event and is a student in the Hispanic Theological Education classes at Campbell.

"Not only was this the largest health fair this group had held, it was also the most diverse," states Eric Carter, professional service chair for the class of 2015 and organizer of the event. George Sanchez, a member of Amistad Cristiana and a student in the Hispanic Theological Education Program at Campbell, provided translation for the people who needed it. "It was an opportunity to meet people, serve people and share the word of God," explains Sanchez.

Campbell University pharmacy students (left to right) Corey Koonce, Stephanie Ring, and Nicolo Vargas perform screenings at the free health clinic held in Angier.

Michele Simmons, a third-year pharmacy student from Coats planning to be an oncology pharmacist, had participated in several clinics in local communities but this was the first faith-based initiative for her. Simmons was a high school teacher and a pharmaceuticals sales representative when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. As a survivor, she appreciates the opportunity to share information about breast cancer with an underserved population. During the day, she made one referral because of serious symptoms reported by the individual.

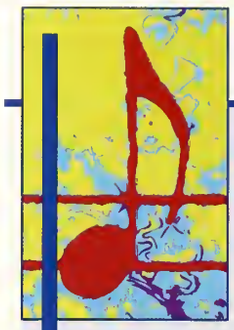
Corey Koonce, a third-year student from Kinston, said that helping underserved communities is one of the SNPHA's initiatives and gives them practice with real patients. He says that he chose pharmacy because he wants to be able to help people.

"The health fair was a wonderful opportunity for the churches to show that we care about our neighbors," says Dr. Duke. "It helps the community and allows people to get engaged in their own health care while providing an opportunity for students to hone their skills." She reports that the students did a good job. They were well prepared, well organized and provided quality care.

New Contributing CBFNC Partner Churches (As of February 10, 2012)

First, Yadkinville
New Hope, Raleigh (new MRP* contributor)
Roxboro, Roxboro (new MRP* contributor)
Temple, Wilmington (new MRP* contributor)
Via Faith Community, Winston-Salem

*Mission Resource Plan - visit www.CBFNC.org



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC

2012 Music Festivals

Children's Choir Festival

Singing at the CBFNC General Assembly
March 24, 2012, in Raleigh, NC

For Children in Grades 4-6
Registration: www.cbfnc.org,
deadline March 9.

Youth Choir Festival

April 20-21, 2012
First Baptist Church, Greensboro

For Youth in Grades 7-12
Registration: www.cbfnc.org
deadline April 1.

DEACON MINISTRY TRAINING

Recovering Hope for the Church: From Apathy to Engagement

September 22, 2012
Mission Baptist Church
in Locust
10am-2pm

Led by Jeremy Hyde, Lead Pastor; Ronny Russell, Mission Pastor; and Eddie Hammett, CBFNC Church and Clergy Coach. They will share the story of their rural traditional congregation that moved from about 150 in worship to now functioning as a multi-campus church with about 80 percent of their adult members engaged in small groups seeking to be a relevant force in a rapidly changing world.

Cost: $15
Includes breaks and lunch for those preregistered.
Visit *www.cbfnc.org* for more information.

Ministers on the Move

Compiled by Jack Causey, Ministerial Resources Coordinator

Our encouragement and support go to the following ministers who have recently moved:

First Baptist Church in Wallace has called **Alan Thompson** as their pastor.

Kevin Moore has been called as pastor of First Baptist Church in Spring Hope.

When you make a move or know of someone who has changed places of ministry, let us know at jcausey@cbfnc.org. **For assistance to search committees and ministers seeking vocational discernment, visit our reference and referral page on our website at www.cbfnc.org or call 336-759-3456 or 888-822-1944.**

CBF Global Missions Field Personnel Off-Field Assignments in Our Area

Lita and Rick Sample
Raleigh from July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012
Lsample@thefellowship.info
or *Rsample@thefellowship.info*

Coordinator Visits December 2011 -January 2012

First, Elkin
First, Fair Bluff
First, Kannapolis
First, Lumberton
First, Monroe
First, Sylva
First, Taylorsville
Iglesia Bautista La Roca, Pittsboro
Mt. Carmel, Chapel Hill
VIA Faith Community, Winston-Salem

The Gathering

of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

Cooperative Baptist FELLOWSHIP

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Gail McAlister	Financial Manager	GMcalister@cbfnc.org	
Allison Gallimore	Administrative Assistant	AGallimore@cbfnc.org	

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Nate Leonard, Kannapolis
Alicia Porterfield, Wilmington
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Darryl Aaron, Winston-Salem
Roger Gilbert, Mount Airy
Don Gordon, Durham
Beth McConnell, Charlotte
Glenn Phillips, Goldsboro
Robin Roberts, Raleigh
Blenda Price Sloniker, Hickory

Financial Report: December 2011 Contributions Undesignated - $137,879 Designated - $258,973

April 2011 - March 2012 Monthly Undesignated Goal: $132,604

A [Baptist] Conference on Sexuality and Covenant

April 19-21

2012

First Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia April 19-21, 2012 Visit www.thefellowship.info/conference for more information.

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST
fellowship
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Upcoming Events ~ March/April Edition

Evangelism: Moving From Program to Formation
March 9, 2012
Campbell University Divinity School

Deacon Ministry Workshop
March 10, 2012
Oakmont Baptist Church, Greenville

CBFNC General Assembly
March 23-24, 2012
Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh

CBFNC General Assembly — Youth Edition
March 23-24, 2012
Millbrook Baptist Church and
Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh

CBFNC General Assembly — Divinity Student Experience
March 23-24, 2012
Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh

7th Annual Children's Choir Festival
March 24, 2012
Raleigh

Visit *www.CBFNC.org* to register and for more information.

The Gathering is published six times a year. All questions may be directed to Sarah Mitchell, (336) 759-3456 or (888) 822-1944 or smitchell@cbfnc.org. For story submissions, contact Sarah Mitchell for requirements and deadlines.

Adult Spirituality Retreat
April 13-15, 2012
Caraway Conference Center

Spiritual Senior Moments
April 19, 2012
First, Waynesville

8th Annual Youth Choir Festival
April 20-21, 2012
First, Greensboro

Christian Coaching Certificate Training
502 Class: Establishing a Dynamic Coaching Relationship
April 30 - May 1, 2012

Racial Reconciliation and the Body of Christ
May 3, 2012
Unity Christian Church Int'l, Fayetteville

Impacting Tomorrow: Traditional Churches Finding Their Future in God's Story
May 18-19, 2012
Providence, Charlotte

OASIS 2012 Renew for the Journey Church Music Conference
July 16-18, 2012
Campbell University Divinity School

SELAHvie
August 6-9, 2012

2012 Central NC Deacon/Spouse Conference
September 22, 2012
Mission Baptist Church, Locust

January/February 2012 • Vol. 17 Issue 1 **Bringing Baptists of North Carolina Together for Christ-Centered Ministry**

The Gathering

of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

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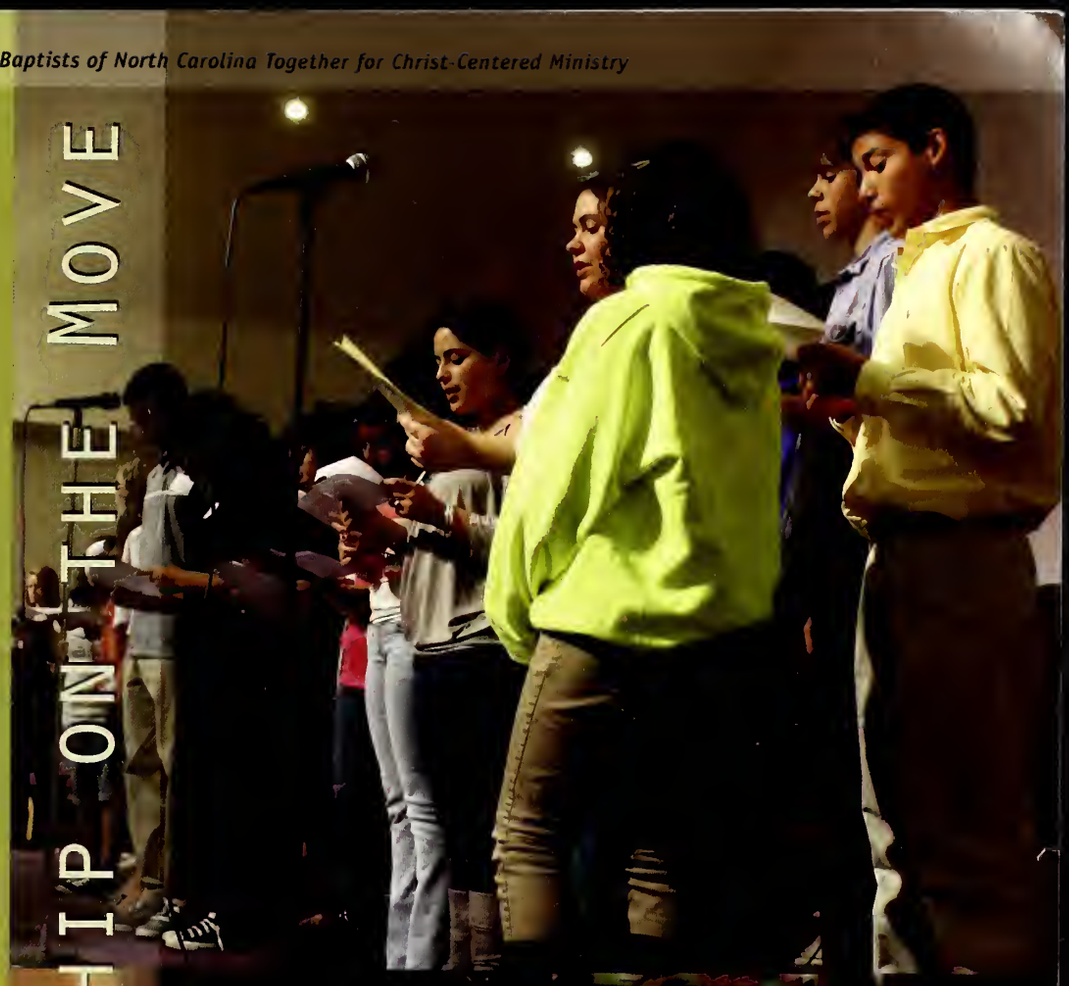
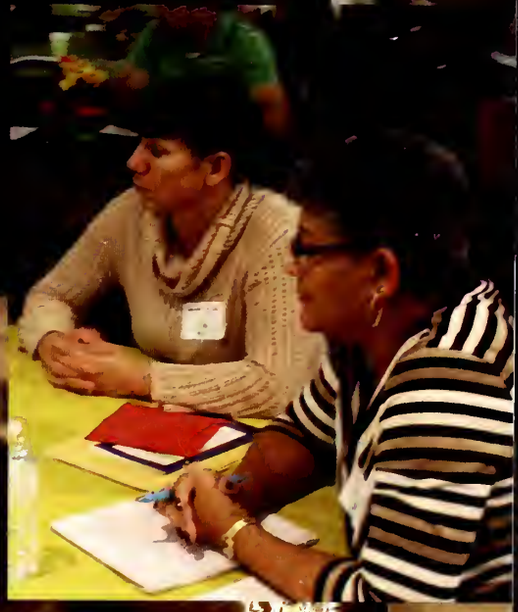
2011 FALL FELLOWSHIP ON THE MOVE





SEE PAGE 12

Jesus, Bible and Missions, Not Politics

by Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator

"Aren't you concerned that critics might accuse CBFNC of being too political?" my friend asked as we stood in the sanctuary of First, Sylva, following a Monday evening worship service last October. The service was part of a collaborative effort between CBFNC and the Western North Carolina Baptist Fellowship (WNCBF) to conduct a joint Fellowship on the Move and WNCBF fall gathering.

WNCBF leaders had requested that I enlist Rev. Hector Villanueva to serve as the preacher for the service. The inquirer was a pastor who had been out of circulation for much of the year and, therefore, was not aware of the events surrounding Hector's arrest, attempted deportation, and eventual (Praise God!) release back to his family and congregation.

"Don't get me wrong," my colleague continued. "I'm in favor of CBFNC's involvement in the immigration issue. Hector's story is amazing. But it does concern me that some folks might see it in a more negative light and might accuse us of violating the separation of church and state."

"I hear what you're saying," I explained to my friend. "CBFNC still adheres firmly to church-state separation. It's one of our bedrock principles. We're not engaging in partisan politics. We didn't even set out to get involved in the immigration discussion. But we did feel called by God to pursue missions with the growing Hispanic population in our state. And we discovered that when you reach out to people with the love of Jesus, when you truly try to be the presence of Christ with them, their issues become your issues."

... our Bible-based, Spirit-led, mission-focused life together is taking us down some new paths

CBFNC is, above all, a missions organization. Our missiology is based on our reading of the Bible. By taking Scripture seriously, we are led to be a missionary people. By taking God's call to mission seriously, we are led down paths that, on our own, we might not choose to go. But as the old hymn has us sing, "Wherever He leads, I'll go." And our Bible-based, Spirit-led, mission-focused life together is taking us down some new paths.

Because Jesus, echoing a repeated Old Testament refrain states, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35), as missionary Baptists we are led to welcome the Hispanic immigrants who have come into our state.

Because Paul explains, "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility" (Ephesians 2:14), and "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28). As missionary Baptists, we are led to seek reconciliation with brothers and sisters of other races.

Because repeatedly in the Old Testament God's people are urged, "The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern" (Proverbs 29:7), and Jesus himself described as his personal mission "to proclaim good news to the poor" (Luke 4:18), as missionary Baptists we are led to engage in ministries that address issues of wealth and poverty in our state and world.

These are some of the new ministry paths the Spirit is leading us to take. I can't say where we'll be called to go next. But I know one thing for sure. We have no interest in pursuing anybody's political agenda. Our only agenda is to study God's Word, listen to the Spirit's call, and faithfully pursue that call consistent with our heritage as missionary Baptists.

Equipping Churches for Impacting Tomorrow

by Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator

In October 2010, CBFNC, in partnership with several other organizations (CBF National, Columbia Partnership, Center for Congregational Health), conducted Hopeful Imagination. This was a new kind of conference for church leaders in which the primary resource persons came from one "teaching church," First, Wilmington. That conference was a dream come true, borne out of our conviction that in the 21st century the real experts for resourcing congregations reside not in a denominational office but in sister congregations.

We'll take a similar but expanded approach May 18-19, 2012, as we gather at Providence Baptist in Charlotte for "Impacting Tomorrow: Traditional Churches Finding Their Future in God's Story." Complete information about the conference can be found on the events page on our website, *www.cbfnc.org*.

Here is a preview of several conference highlights:

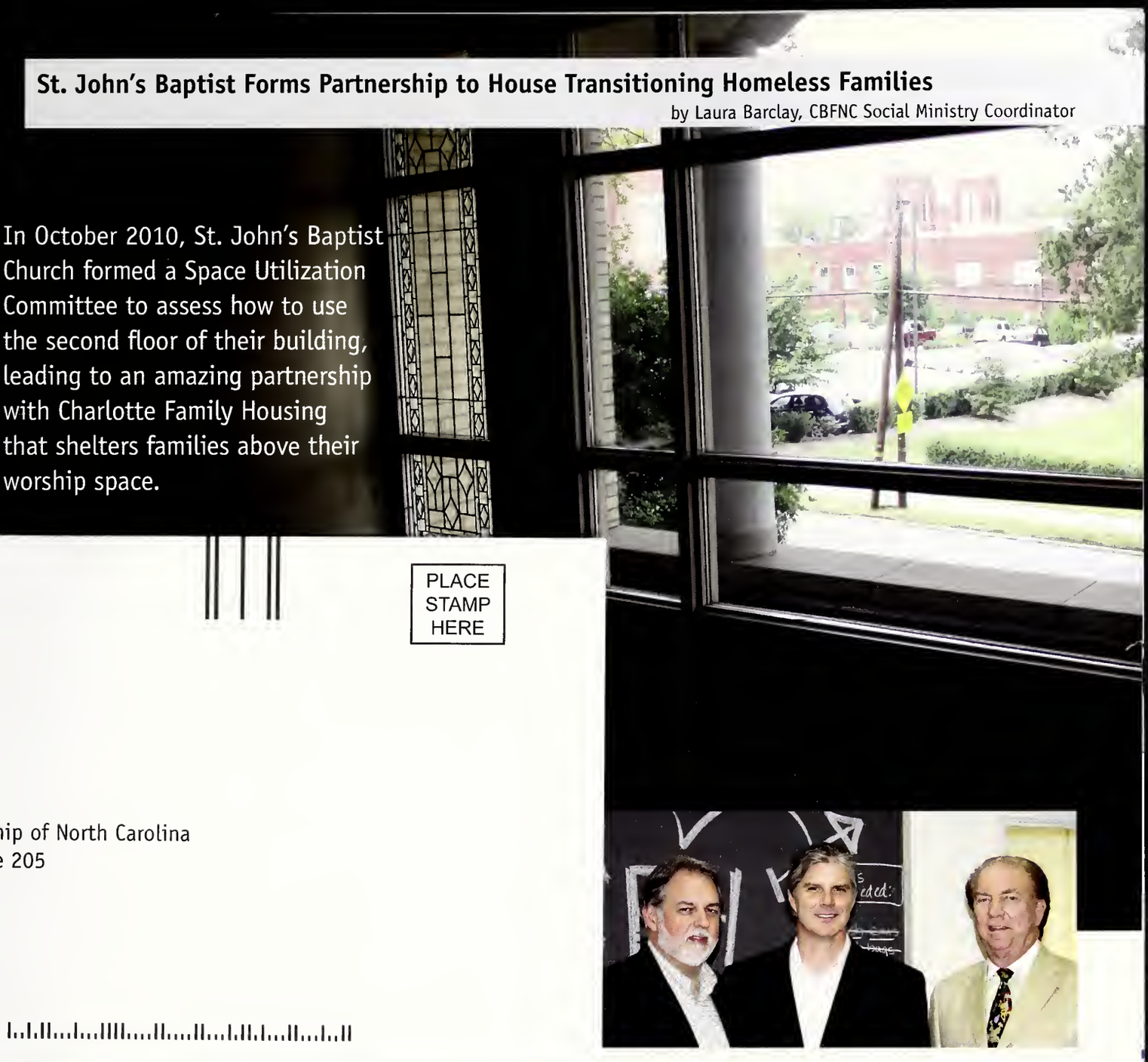
- Mike Queen will interview five churches that implemented and benefitted from lessons learned at Hopeful Imagination.
- Several congregations will lead workshops telling their unique stories of transformation and their missional journeys of renewal and revitalization.
- Gary and Carla Nelson will serve as keynote speakers at two plenary sessions. Gary is the president of Tyndale University College and Seminary in Toronto, Canada, and is the former General Secretary of Canadian Baptist Ministries. Gary is a recognized urban missiologist, author and pastor who led in the revitalization and renewal of historic downtown FBC Edmonton.

I'm grateful for churches that are exhibiting missional vitality during these challenging, rapidly changing times, and their willingness to share their experiences. Our churches need the kind of encouragement and practical help that will be shared. And the people in our communities and world need our churches to be equipped to make a meaningful impact on their lives.

St. John's Baptist Forms Partnership to House Transitioning Homeless Families

by Laura Barclay, CBFNC Social Ministry Coordinator

In October 2010, St. John's Baptist Church formed a Space Utilization Committee to assess how to use the second floor of their building, leading to an amazing partnership with Charlotte Family Housing that shelters families above their worship space.



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LEFT to RIGHT: St. John's Baptist Church Pastor Dennis Foust; Darren Ash of Charlotte Family Housing; and Larry Hewitt, chair of the space committee.

Ash shared that the goal is to transition these families out of the dorms and into the comfort of their own apartments, and then offer counseling services to help them cope with past traumas. Charlotte Family Housing has rental vouchers for about 120 apartment units for transitioning families, and the organization shelters and houses around 200 families a year.

In addition to living space, families receive asset-based social work to overcome obstacles to housing, as well as vocational counseling, housing advocacy and subsidies, financial incentives like microloans, ongoing clinical social work, and volunteer engagement with clients.

New pastor Dennis Foust is excited about the investment the church has made in their partnership and is looking forward to building relationships between his congregants and the new residents through Wednesday night suppers, worship, and volunteer opportunities. Ash noted that the level of faith these families had was astounding and uplifting to the employees, who note their reliance on God during difficult times.

St. John's partnership is prophetic for our times. Charlotte is ranked #2 in the nation for family homelessness. Charlotte Family Housing formed this year as a merger between three organizations to more efficiently and effectively care for homeless populations.

This partnership exhibits a church actively aware and engaged in their community and committed to what Jesus identified as the greatest commandments — loving God and neighbor.

Jesus, Bible and Missions, Not Politics

by Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator

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> ... our Bible-based, Spirit-led, mission-focused life together is taking us down some new paths

Bringing Baptists of North Carolin

- North Carolina missions
- New church starts
- Retreats for children, youth and ad
- Search committee assistance
- Theological education support
- College ministry
- Support for Baptist partners

Equipping Churches for Impacting Tom

by Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator

In October 2010, CBFNC, in partnership with several c (CBF National, Columbia Partnership, Center for Congreg conducted Hopeful Imagination. This was a new kind of c leaders in which the primary resource persons came from church," First, Wilmington. That conference was a dream out of our conviction that in the 21st century the real exper congregations reside not in a denominational office but in

We'll take a similar but expanded approach May 18-19 at Providence Baptist in Charlotte for "Impacting Tomorro Churches Finding Their Future in God's Story." Complete the conference can be found on the events page on our wel

Here is a preview of several conference highlights:

- Mike Queen will interview five churches that implemented and benefitted from lessons learned at Hopeful Imagination.
- Several congregations will lead workshops telling their unique stories of transformation and their missional journeys of renewal and revitalization.
- Gary and Carla Nelson will serve as keynote speakers at two plenary sessions. Gary is the president of Tyndale University College and Seminary in Toronto, Canada, and is the former General Secretary of Canadian Baptist Ministries. Gary is a recognized urban missiologist, author and pastor who led in the revitalization and renewal of historic downtown FBC Edmonton.

I'm grateful for churches that are exhibiting missional vitality during these challenging, rapidly changing times, and their willingness to share their experiences. Our churches need the kind of encouragement and practical help that will be shared. And the people in our communities and world need our churches to be equipped to make a meaningful impact on their lives.

St. John's Baptist Forms Partnership to House Transitioning Homeless Families

by Laura Barclay, CBFNC Social Ministry Coordinator

In October 2010, St. John's Baptist Church formed a Space Utilization Committee to assess how to use the second floor of their building, leading to an amazing partnership with Charlotte Family Housing that shelters families above their worship space.

Larry Hewitt, chair of the space committee, related that the church has previously housed a hospitality house for families of patients in the neighboring hospital. The hospital proceeded to build stand-alone facilities, and St. John's wanted to figure out how to utilize the space in an ongoing partnership with the community and ensure that the building would be serving God beyond Sundays and Wednesdays.

Bert Green, Executive Director of Charlotte's Habitat for Humanity, put the committee in touch with Darren Ash of Charlotte Family Housing, and they began talks to form the second shelter in town that houses families. Moving in above the Fellowship Hall with the name "Hawthorne Place," dorms will house six families at a time, with common areas for a computer lab, laundry room, kitchens and closets.

LEFT to RIGHT: St. John's Baptist Church Pastor Dennis Foust; Darren Ash of Charlotte Family Housing; and Larry Hewitt, chair of the space committee.

Ash relates that this move has been a blessing at a time when Charlotte seemed to be pushing homeless populations to the north side of town, making them feel unwelcome downtown. Many of Ash's clients work at the neighboring hospital and will no longer face a long commute.

Ash shared that the goal is to transition these families out of the dorms and into the comfort of their own apartments, and then offer counseling services to help them cope with past traumas. Charlotte Family Housing has rental vouchers for about 120 apartment units for transitioning families, and the organization shelters and houses around 200 families a year.

In addition to living space, families receive asset-based social work to overcome obstacles to housing, as well as vocational counseling, housing advocacy and subsidies, financial incentives like microloans, ongoing clinical social work, and volunteer engagement with clients.

New pastor Dennis Foust is excited about the investment the church has made in their partnership and is looking forward to building relationships between his congregants and the new residents through Wednesday night suppers, worship, and volunteer opportunities. Ash noted that the level of faith these families had was astounding and uplifting to the employees, who note their reliance on God during difficult times.

St. John's partnership is prophetic for our times. Charlotte is ranked #2 in the nation for family homelessness. Charlotte Family Housing formed this year as a merger between three organizations to more efficiently and effectively care for homeless populations.

This partnership exhibits a church actively aware and engaged in their community and committed to what Jesus identified as the greatest commandments — loving God and neighbor.

Loray Serving the Poor, Young and Afraid

by Lea Ann Moss, Program Director, Loray Girls Home

As you might imagine, putting together a Christmas morning for a group of teenage girls is a daunting proposition.

Working as program director of the Loray Girls Home in Gastonia for the last 13 years, I've become pretty savvy about developing a thoughtful, creative list and sticking to an increasingly scant budget. All the while, I remind myself that this is the only Christmas morning many of the girls in our home have ever had. They will remember these times the way you and I remember our first Christmases with family.

On Christmas Eve a few years ago, I recall crossing off the last item on the list and returning to the home to finish wrapping. The staff and girls were finishing off some decorations in the family room and cooking — I'd call it cheerfully chaotic, what is somewhat normal for us.

But then I got a call. It was after hours, and it was the Department of Social Services. They'd come across a 16-year-old girl who had been cast aside by family with no safe place to go. And now she was homeless, a fragile kid capable of critical mistakes but old enough to know that she can't go back home. It's a tough place to be.

As the staff got wind of the conversation, the idea of making "the new girl" feel at home for Christmas took hold. She needed us, we were going to be there for her. Getting calls like this are, unfortunately, not that rare.

As I scrambled to get things together, one of the staff members began talking about what happened 2,000 years ago on that first Christmas. She reminded us that Mary and Joseph were forced away from home at the most important time of their lives. They were cast out by society, which judged without knowing them and the circumstances they were enduring. They were told there was no room for them at the inn and were forced to find shelter any place they could. They were poor, young and afraid.

Christ teaches us the importance of humility, the absolute power of forgiveness and the necessity of taking care of the entire flock, not one stray excluded

I see that every day in my job. That's exactly who we are serving in Gastonia — the poor, young and afraid. There are millions of young people in this country falling through the cracks every day, shoved aside by family and society and told they don't matter. Many have been abused, neglected and worse. I know things that are unspeakable, just too terrible and too sad. It is heartbreaking, but very real. My greatest fear is that sometimes people don't get to see how much need there is in their community.

In the book of Matthew, Chapter 18, Christ gave us the essential components of the new way of living he brought the world. He teaches us the importance of humility, the absolute power of forgiveness and the necessity of taking care of the entire flock, not one stray excluded.

That was the mission Rev. Raymond White, pastor of Loray Baptist Church in Gastonia, gave us when he put down the roots of Loray Girls Home 25 years ago. Rev. John Bridges followed and built on that foundation. He passed the mantle to current pastor Dr. Kent Crawford, who is truly a God-send. Three ministers in 25 years, staff that has been here for nearly that long … we've developed a program and a community here at Loray that Gaston County has come to know and trust.

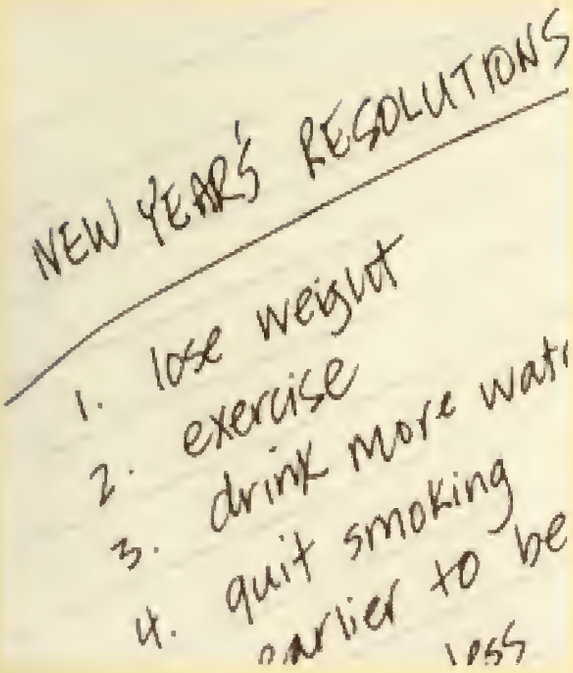
But it's not easy. Our mission is to provide a sanctuary and shelter from the storm for the ones who need it most. We are working on plans to launch a new program to help girls transitioning into their first homes as they grow out of foster programs. Sadly, it's becoming more difficult for us as government funds are cut dramatically every year. Meanwhile, the economy throws more and more lower-income families into catastrophe every day. It is a cruel irony that our services have never been needed more, yet our resources have never been thinner.

So I get a little overwhelmed sometimes, which brings me back to that Christmas a few years ago. The sun rose, morning came, that gathering gloom rolled away for a time — for all of us. The neglect of parents, the meanness of the world, the unfairness of it all just melted away for a day. "The new girl" had a day she'll never want to forget, and it was only a few hours after a day that she'll never be able to erase from her memory.

I couldn't be more proud of her today. She's found a great job that has some promise for the future. She's come and gone over the years, but now she's making plans to move to a place of her own and knowing we helped her get there keeps my spirits high. Our girls have gone on to become students at prestigious schools such as Spellman, one has a master's degree and is teaching, hopefully passing on some of the lessons she learned at Loray.

That's why I don't despair, because I have seen with my own eyes that Loray Girls Home is a place where miracles happen.

Visit their website at www.loraybaptist.org/loray_girls_home.htm.



A New Habit for a New Year

by Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator

The turning of the page on the calendar to a new year triggers, for many of us, a desire to establish new habits. We often begin the new year "resolved" to lose weight, exercise more, get out of debt, or read the Bible daily. Most resolutions are abandoned after a few days or weeks. The best resolutions lead to new habits that change our lives for the better.

CBFNC would like to invite the members of our fellowship to cultivate a new habit for 2012: becoming an individual contributor to CBFNC ministries. The actual "members" of CBFNC are not churches but individuals who are members of congregations that make financial contributions to CBFNC, or who themselves make such contributions.

CBFNC has enjoyed phenomenal growth in giving from partner congregations, but that giving is slowing. Growth in ministry for CBFNC in the future will be dependent on growth in financial support outside of church contributions, and that includes individuals.

As you develop your personal budget for charitable giving beyond your local church, please consider giving to CBFNC. CBFNC is a strong, healthy, missionally effective ministry organization. Help us continue on that path by cultivating a new habit for 2012 — becoming an individual financial supporter of CBFNC.

For your convenience, to make a contribution to CBFNC, you may use the enclosed envelope or visit our website, *www.cbfnc.org*.

Deacon Ministry: Catalyst for Change

by Eddie Hammett, CBFNC Church and Clergy Coach

"Growing Churches in Challenging Times" was the theme of CBFNC's 2011 Deacon/Spouse training at University Baptist in Chapel Hill and First Baptist in Hickory. I shared concepts from my book, *Spiritual Leadership in a Secular Age*, with approximately 200 deacons and pastors from 35 CBFNC churches. These attendees were eager to learn and were very affirming of the information and resources shared, as well as of the conference design ... so much so that I have been invited to share the same content in several churches and am planning to repeat the same conference in Greenville at Oakmont Baptist on March 10, 2012.

Affirmations of the 'Growing Churches in Challenging Times" were voiced by:

On behalf of myself and our four deacons, thank you for the super retreat of this past Saturday at the Hickory church. The info shared was so important and relevant and it will make a difference in our people and mission in the days to come. Thank you and may God bless you in your calling and purpose.

Tom Kinman, Pastor
Hickory Grove, Mount Holly

First, thank you for a great day for me and my deacons. Those deacons who came had a great experience, and by great I mean they had their eyes opened, expanded, and in some cases blown.

Thomas Bounds, Pastor
Pfafftown Baptist

Feedback from those leaving was that it was just what they needed. I'm so glad we could host! Thanks and blessings over these next weeks as you are on the road!

Rendell Hipps
First, Hickory

CBFNC and I will also partner with Mission Baptist in Locust for a 2012 Deacon/Spouse training event on a new theme, "Recovering Hope for the Church – Moving From Apathy to Engagement." Mission has a powerful and encouraging story of leadership and congregational transformation over the last decade. Once a rural, struggling congregation, they now hold church worship in multiple sites, engage more than 80% of their members in small group discipleship, and touch their community and world through intentional missional experiences. Set aside September 22, 2012, for this significant training event. In addition, plan to attend the "Impacting Tomorrow Conference" at Providence in Charlotte, May 18-19, 2012.

After serving as deacon consultant for over 25 years, I believe that deacons are to be spiritual servant leaders in the church. Deacons and their families can be catalysts for effective change or they can be significant barriers in the church moving forward and staying relevant in a rapidly changing culture.

Additional deacon ministry resources and links can be found on my personal website, *www.transforminsolutions.org*. If I can be of help, feel free to get in touch by e-mailing me at *ehammett@cbfnc.org*.

Where Can We Go on a Mission Trip?

by Linda Jones, CBFNC Missions Coordinator

Ottawa, Canada

Fellow North Carolinians, we invite you to come up here for ten days to one month, two at a time to serve in ministries that welcome newcomers to Canada. The Matthew House Ottawa, *www.matthewhouseottawa.org*, provides temporary housing for up to eight newly arrived refugees. You would help keep the house running by doing odd jobs, cooking, cleaning, smiling, talking, and praying as you go. You may also spend time at the Furniture Bank of Ottawa, *www.furniturebankofottawa.com*, to assist clients as they pick out their furniture, assist with moves, and organize donations. Contact Kim and Marc Wyatt at *wyatt@thefellowship.info.*

Belize, Central America

Belize is the only English speaking country in Latin America and is located just south of Mexico on the Caribbean coast. Mission Team opportunities include church-to-church relationships and ministry opportunities of construction, VBS, discipleship training and leadership training. CBFNC churches are partnering together to finish the construction of St. Elena School in Belize. More partners are needed & welcome! Contact Brenda Hipp at *belizebaptistpt@gmail.com.*

- **The Baptist Bible School of Belize** provides three intensive weeks of study each year. CBFNC churches and interested friends provide the budget to cover the cost of the courses and textbooks, meals for the week, and administration. Please consider helping financially or, if interested in teaching, contact Susan Pasour *spasour@yahoo.com*
- **Eric and Julie Maas, CBF field personnel in Belize** have opportunities for teams to come do VBS, medical, construction, and Bible Studies in April, June or in the fall. Some of the greatest needs are discipleship and leadership training. Contact Julie at *julie@seekservesave.org*

Romania

Ruth School offers 1st-8th grade for Romany students. During the summer months, Vacation Bible School is a great way for youth teams to serve. Construction Teams help with painting and plastering, as well as repairs on the buildings. During the school year, help is needed with Teacher Appreciation Week, Moms' Club and English Club activities. Teachers can volunteer with Inservices for Ruth School staff with particular emphasis on teaching unique students. Crafters are welcome to teach at Sewing/Craft Club for students and classes for the community. Contact Ralph and Tammy Stocks at *rstocks@thefellowship.info.*

Kenya

Sam and Melody Harrell have created Change for Children, constructing eight integrated child development centers around Kenya which have the potential to better the lives of the nearly 650 children, ranging in age from 3 to 6, who will attend the schools this year. Teams come to Kenya providing support for the schools through medical services, construction, or simply teaching and playing with the children. Contact *harrell@africaexchange.org*

Shelby, NC

Assistance for my neighbors in northeast Shelby is always welcome in the following areas:

- We host a 3-hour "Fun Blast" one Saturday each month involving games, Bible story/craft, and a meal (usually pizza.) Youth groups and/or SS classes are welcome to carry out this event which usually attracts 12-20 youth, ages 4-16. We are flexible about the specific Saturday for this event.
- We hold Children's Church each Sunday morning from 11:00-1:30 (times are approximate). Individuals, couples, or small youth groups are needed to assist or conduct the entire event.
- We prepare a meal twice each month for the community. The days and times vary with the seasons. Individuals, SS classes, women's mission circles, and youth groups have provided these meals that usually feed approximately 50 people. We are **always** in need of folks to provide these meals.
- School supplies are always welcome, especially composition books, notebook paper, pencils, and pencil sharpeners.
- Several middle school boys need local mentors. A couple of them play football and other sports and have no family members or supporters present to watch them play.

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can minister with me. Contact Cecelia Beck: (828) 289-2892 or *bcecelia@hotmail.com.*

So. Africa

Mark and Sara Williams serve with ARISE ministries which focuses on planting churches in rural areas. Mark works to provide training, resources and support to local pastors and community leaders. Sara works to address the needs of children in the communities, especially orphans. Contact *mwilliams@thefellowship.info.*

Living Faith Ministry, Lebanon 2012 Projects

Chaouki and Maha Boulos, CBF field personnel in Lebanon, coordinate "Celebrate Jesus" rallies in Beirut and neighboring countries, where thousands of people have heard about Jesus Christ – some for the first time. Come as a team to Beirut, Lebanon, or to Egypt and assist with an evangelism rally, lead a sports camp, or work at White Wings Conference Center. Financial help is also needed for the rallies and for the Conference Center. Contact Chaouki and Maha at *operationantioch@hotmail.com.*

Passport

Celebrating 20 Summers ...

For 3rd - 6th grades: Passport kids in multiple sites.

For 6th - 12th grade students: Passport Choices in Wingate, NC; Passport Missions in Danville, VA, and Macon, GA; Passport Missions 2 with expanded missions engagement in Dallas, St. Louis, Missouri and Washington D.C. And check out Passport Kenya! Great experiences await your youth. Watch a two-minute video on YouTube at Treasure: Passport Camps 2012. Details about Passport and all their programs: *www.passportcamps.org.*

WNC Slavic Ministries, Asheville, NC

Fran and Mike Graham are self-funded CBF Field Personnel serving as Coordinators for WNC Slavic Ministries, Inc. This is a non-profit interdenominational ministry working together with Slavic leaders to provide holistic ministries to empower Slavic immigrants as they integrate into the Asheville area.

Some ways in which you can be involved: invite dental professionals to volunteer on the NC Baptist Men's Mobile Dental Unit the week of March 26-31, 2012; donate items listed at *www.wncslavicministries.org*; plan and lead backyard Bible clubs during the summer; sort donated household items; and on Saturdays during the year, plan and lead picnics and games.

Together For Hope of Arkansas

Together For Hope of Arkansas, based at the Helena Community Center, hosts Stories on Wheels (a toy and book lending library), sports ministries, after-school tutoring programs, nutritional programs, and health programs. Come be a part of CBF's Rural Poverty Initiative as we reach out to this community. Teams, families and individuals are encouraged to participate in the All Church Challenge that will include a two-week KidsCamp July 7-12 and July 14-19, building renovations and a community garden. Delta Jewels sale parties and other micro-enterprise opportunities are needed! Contact: *www.togetherforhope.com* and *www.allchurchchallenge.org*

Northeastern North Carolina

Anna and LaCount Anderson serve in northeastern NC, primarily centered in the Halifax County and Northampton County. In 2012 we hope to move north and east of these counties to continue developing poverty ministry. We have begun two **Christian Education summer events for children**, a literacy fair and Vacation Bible School. There is a **community garden** for the needy in Roanoke Rapids, and we always need help in the garden. A second part of the food ministry is meeting with those in need and food distribution.

Faith House, a woman's shelter located in Enfield, needs considerable work done to its physical structure. Connected to our woman's ministry is the beginning of *Christian Woman's Job Corps*, a partnership with CBF and WMU of North Carolina. Leah Reed is working daily with the program and needs mentors to assist her on a short-term or regular basis. Contact *landerson@thefellowship.info*.

Together For Hope, Nada, Kentucky

Paula Settle serves in Nada and Booneville, Kentucky, as a part of the Rural Poverty Initiative. This involves working with more than 35 church mission teams each year, housing repairs, reverse mission team trips, tutoring at the elementary school, and GORGEous Gals earrings/Business As Mission project.

A mission team is needed to oversee the food booth vendors during the June 8-10 Nada festival. Kroger, Save A Lot and Walmart gift cards are helpful, as is food for the backpack ministry (Ramen noodles, tuna, cereal bars, fruit cups). Contact Paula Settle at *psettle@thefellowship.info*.

San Francisco Bay

Rick and Lita Sample serve among international refugees, immigrants, and international students, and they advocate on behalf of victims of human trafficking. They are looking for teams starting in the school year 2012-2013.

Opportunities include a Mihmani (Afghan Friendship Gathering) event where Christians and Muslims come together, Easter Egg Hunts, July 4th celebration, Kite Day, VBS, Karen Park Day carnival, Karen Church involvement with crafts and games for the children, distribution of the Gospel of John, Kids Club, Park Day, and baby showers. There are other options depending on the gifts and desires of your group. Contact the Samples, *rsample@thefellowship.info,* for additional volunteer opportunities and items needed.

Haiti

The Haiti Housing Network is a collaboration among the Fellowship, Conscience International, the Fuller Center for Housing and the Baptist General Convention of Texas. So far, 15 houses have been completed utilizing a technique developed by Conscience International in which the rubble from the earthquake is used as building material. There have also been two houses completed for volunteer teams. Teams are needed to build more homes! Contact Chris Boltin at *cboltin@thefellowship.info*. Steve and Nancy James, *jamesinhaiti@gmail.com*, are on at-home assignment and can be contacted for medical missions info in Haiti.

The Village of Hope, Ukraine

Gennady and Mina Podgaisky began work with the **Village of Hope** in 2003 after CBFNC purchased a deserted Russian youth camp. Since 2004, volunteer teams have served at the Village of Hope renovating and constructing housing for the children and their families as well as working with the children. Major construction has been accomplished but **renovation work** continues. **Medical and dental missions** are now part of their work. Teams are encouraged to work with Gennady and Mina alongside the children at the Village of Hope or at their many ministry endeavors in Kiev and Bucha. Contact Bill Mason at *wmason@carolina.rr.com* or the Podgaisky family at *podgaisky@gmail.com*.

The Timothy Project

The Timothy Project, led by Cliff Christian, is an ecumenical missions coordination agency for church, youth, college and intergenerational groups. Based in the Appalachian Mountains of western NC, they identify, develop, assist and support ongoing mission efforts in the southeastern US. Their summer mission activities are youth-oriented and seek to connect students with opportunities to serve, learn and grow in relationship to Jesus Christ and others.

Rural Appalachian: Madison County, NC, in June, Yancey County, NC, in July Cumberland Gap, KY, in July. *www.TheTimothyProjects.com*

A Mountain Top Moment on the Summit

by Kent Cranford, Loray Baptist Church

The righteous flourish like the palm tree,
And grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Psalm 92:12

These words took root in the soil of my soul this summer when I had the privilege of joining a mission team from several CBFNC churches who joined Linda Jones, CBFNC Missions Coordinator, to participate in a week of ministry and celebration in Lebanon. After a 19-hour flight, CBF National missionaries to the Middle East, Chaouki and Maha Boulos, put us to work immediately the next morning traveling from church to church in preparation for the Celebrate Jesus festival that the Boulos and other local Christian leaders had been arranging for months. Despite years of turmoil between the nation of Israel to the south and Muslims and Christian groups in Lebanon, we were a part of a group of Evangelical Christians holding a public gathering in downtown Beirut celebrating Jesus Christ! For five consecutive evenings, the Gospel was sung, proclaimed, and received. Numbers of individuals accepted Christ including those from other faith traditions. Amazingly, these festivals have also been taking place in Egypt and Jordan since 2000 under the leadership of the Boulos and their volunteers.

Our days were filled with visits, ministry activities and sightseeing. Remarkably, Chaouki had arranged for our team to visit with Lebanon's national police director, Lebanon's highest military court judge, as well as religious and political leaders from the Druze faith tradition. We shared Turkish coffee, wonderful food, conversation, and initiated cross-cultural friendships. Part of our team visited an orphanage to consider possible mission efforts while others led basketball camps. We toured the retreat center that the Boulos are building for use by groups from across the Middle East. It is an amazingly modern facility atop a mountain range overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Sightseeing included a visit to the ancient city of Byblos where the Bible reports craftsmen were imported to build the Jerusalem Temple. My mountain top moment was when we traveled to the summit of Mount Lebanon and I stood under the branches of a 2,000-year-old cedar. If you get a chance, go and see what God is doing in the region of Tyre and Sidon.

You may want to put down roots.

If interested in giving to this ministry or going on a mission trip, contact Linda Jones ljones@cbfnc.org.

2011 CBFNC Disaster Relief Efforts

by Kent Benfield

2011 has been a prolific year for disasters across America. Here in North Carolina we were impacted twice: April's tornadoes brought devastation throughout central and eastern NC, and August's Hurricane Irene wreaked havoc mostly in eastern NC. The CBFNC Disaster Relief Trailer was put into use in the aftermath of each.

Utilizing the NC Baptist Men's coordination efforts, a team from Lindley Park Church in Greensboro traveled to Raleigh and performed chainsaw work at two different homes. We were fortunate to have additional help from a group from Midland, as huge trees proved quite a challenge.

We also sent a group to New Bern in September to remove flooring, sheetrock, and debris from a home which had also been flooded/rebuilt after Hurricane Isabel in 2003. The homeowner, a retired Veteran, thanked us many times over. This area was hit hard by Irene, and it was comforting to see many faith-based groups working there.

The CBFNC disaster relief trailer and contents are available for all CBF churches to utilize. The trailer, located in Greensboro, contains generators, chainsaws, a pressure washer, and hand tools for all basic recovery work. If interested, please contact Kent Benfield at (336) 451-0669 or (336) 393-4078. A secondary contact is Scott Orr at (336) 292-5761.

Save the date for the
2012 CBFNC General Assembly!

THE HEART OF JESUS:

That they *all* may be *one*

JOHN 17:21

March 23-24, 2012

Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh

worship speaker

Neville Callam
Baptist World Alliance General Secretary

Friday, March 23

- Welcome and Orientation
- Ministry Workshop Sessions
- Fellowship Dinner (requires pre-registration)
- Evening Worship
- Fellowship Reception

Saturday, March 24

- Ministry Workshop Session
- Ministry Celebration
  (incl. adoption of '12-'13 budget & council election)
- Morning Worship

Learn more about General Assembly details and registration, ministry workshop titles, discounted hotel options, childcare reservations, and the Youth Edition at www.cbfnc.org.

Seeking Reconciliation in the Midst of Conflict
Chris Gambill

Ministry Beyond Retirement
Caralie Brown

Restorative Acts: *The Miracles of Jesus and the Apostles*
Jim McConnell

What the Bible Really Says About Women
Sheri Adams

Creating "One-ness"
Beth P. Kennett

Four Lenses of Congregational Analysis
Les Robinson

Racial Reconciliation and the Body of Christ
Nathan Parrish and Willard Bass

Seeing the News Through Christian Eyes
Cameron Jorgenson

Circles: A Way to Cross Race and Class Lines
Annette C. Snyder

iGeneration
Andy Jung

An Introduction to F.I.T. Faith *(Sunday School Resources)*
Rick Jordan, CBFNC Church Resources Coordinator

Missions Unifies the Church in One Purpose
Cara Lynn Vogel

Worship that Reconciles
Dan Day

The Resurrection of Lottie Moon
Glenn Jonas

On Being Pastoral Prophets in the Public Square
Brent Walker

Reaching 20-Somethings Outside of Our Walls
Wanda Kidd

Where's Your Bootstraps
Hyaets Community

Involving Your Church in Local, State, National and International Missions Through NC Baptist Men
Richard Brunson

Listening: The Other Side of Prayer
Hal Melton

The Beauty of Diversity in a Multicultural World
Diana Godwin

Addiction and Grace: *Understanding Addiction and Ministry*
George Fuller, Jr., and Al Mooney

Skin, Status and Stalemates
Hyaets Community

Social Networking and the Church
John Vestal

Youth Ski Retreat
January 27-29, 2012
Winterplace Ski Resort in WV

New Ministers to NC Luncheon

February 9, 2012

For ministers (pastors and staff) and spouses who moved to a church/ministry position in NC during 2011.

Join us for a complimentary luncheon at the CBFNC offices in Winston-Salem. There will be fellowship as well as an opportunity to meet CBFNC staff and learn about our organization.

Register by calling CBFNC at 336-759-3456 or 888-822-1944.

CBF Missions Field Personnel Off-Field Assignments in Our Area

Lita and Rick Sample
Raleigh from July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012
Lsample@thefellowship.info
or *Rsample@thefellowship.info*

Melody and Sam Harrell
Raleigh from June 4, 2011 – January 5, 2012
Harrell@africaexchange.org

Chaouki and Maha Boulos
Rock Hill, SC, from Oct. 14, 2011 – Jan. 30, 2012
Operationantioch@hotmail.com

Coordinator Visits October-November 2011

First, Chester, VA
First, Elkin
First, Forest City
First, Greensboro
First, Yadkinville
First, Winston-Salem
Greenwood Forest, Cary
Grove Park, Clinton
Hiddenite, Hiddenite
Hominy, Candler
Hope Valley, Durham
Macedonia, Raleigh
Mars Hill College
Murfreesboro, Murfreesboro

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC

2012 Music Festivals

Children's Choir Festival

March 24, 2012, in Raleigh, NC

For Children in Grades 4-6
Registration: www.cbfnc.org,
deadline March 9.

Youth Choir Festival

April 20-21, 2012
First Baptist Church, Greensboro

For Youth in Grades 7-12
Registration: www.cbfnc.org
deadline April 1.

New Contributing CBFNC Partner Churches

(As of Nov. 20, 2011)

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Youngsville (new MRP* contributor)
First, Biscoe (new MRP* contributor)
First, Dobson

*Mission Resource Plan - visit www.CBFNC.org

Ministers on the Move

Compiled by Jack Causey, Ministerial Resources Coordinator

Our encouragement and support go to the following ministers who have recently moved:

John Brown has been called as pastor of Boonville Baptist Church.

Rebecca Hall has been called to Ridge Road Baptist Church in Raleigh as minister to children and missions.

David Grinnell has been called to be pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church in Raleigh.

Temple Baptist Church of Wilmington has called **Steve Spangler** as pastor.

Stephen Epperson has been called by Cherry Point Baptist Church in Havelock as pastor.

When you make a move or know of someone who has changed places of ministry, let us know at jcausey@cbfnc.org. **For assistance to search committees and ministers seeking vocational discernment, visit our reference and referral page on our website at www.cbfnc.org or call 336-759-3456 or 888-822-1944.**

The Gathering

of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

Cooperative Baptist FELLOWSHIP

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Don Gordon, Durham
Beth McConnell, Charlotte
Glenn Phillips, Goldsboro
Robin Roberts, Raleigh
Blenda Price Sloniker, Hickory

her for Christ-centered ministry

- General and regional assemblies
- Social ministries
- Racial/ethnic ministries
- International ministries
- Church and clergy coaching
- Congregational resources

Undesignated - $103,352 Designated - $164,767
Undesignated - $120,219 Designated - $162,072
Undesignated - $97,404 Designated - $172,753
ıly Undesignated Goal: $132,604

CHURCHWORKS! CONFERENCE

The ChurchWorks Conference provides opportunities for ministers to discover new ideas and meet others who are also in vocational ministry. The conference combines worship and small group time into a setting where ministers deepen their understanding of their ministry and how it relates to their church environment.

February 27-March 1, 2012
Norfolk, VA

For more information, visit
www.thefellowship.info/churchworks

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT:
WISDOM OF OLD FOR LIVING TODAY
April 13-15, 2012
Adult Spiritual Formation Retreat
Caraway Conference Center
www.cbfnc.org for registration and more information

Youth Ski Retreat
January 27-29, 2012
Winterplace Ski Resort in WV

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC

2012 Music Festivals

Children's Choir Festival

March 24, 2012, in Raleigh, NC

For Children in Grades 4-6
Registration: www.cbfnc.org,
deadline March 9.

Youth Choir Festival

April 20-21, 2012
First Baptist Church, Greensboro

For Youth in Grades 7-12
Registration: www.cbfnc.org
deadline April 1.

New Ministers to NC Luncheon

February 9, 2012

For ministers (pastors and staff) and spouses who moved to a church/ministry position in NC during 2011.

Join us for a complimentary luncheon at the CBFNC offices in Winston-Salem. There will be fellowship as well as an opportunity to meet CBFNC staff and learn about our organization.

Register by calling CBFNC at 336-759-3456 or 888-822-1944.

CBF Missions Field Personnel Off-Field Assignments in Our Area

Lita and Rick Sample
Raleigh from July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012
Lsample@thefellowship.info
or *Rsample@thefellowship.info*

Melody and Sam Harrell
Raleigh from June 4, 2011 – January 5, 2012
Harrell@africaexchange.org

Chaouki and Maha Boulos
Rock Hill, SC, from Oct. 14, 2011 – Jan. 30, 2012
Operationantioch@hotmail.com

Coordinator Visits October-November 2011

First, Chester, VA
First, Elkin
First, Forest City
First, Greensboro
First, Yadkinville
First, Winston-Salem
Greenwood Forest, Cary
Grove Park, Clinton
Hiddenite, Hiddenite
Hominy, Candler
Hope Valley, Durham
Macedonia, Raleigh
Mars Hill College
Murfreesboro, Murfreesboro

Cooperative Baptis
8025 North Point B
Winston-Salem, NC

Baptist Church in Raleigh as minister to children and missions.

David Grinnell has been called to be pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church in Raleigh.

Temple Baptist Church of Wilmington has called **Steve Spangler** as pastor.

Stephen Epperson has been called by Cherry Point Baptist Church in Havelock as pastor.

When you make a move or know of someone who has changed places of ministry, let us know at jcausey@cbfnc.org. **For assistance to search committees and ministers seeking vocational discernment, visit our reference and referral page on our website at www.cbfnc.org or call 336-759-3456 or 888-822-1944.**

The Gathering

of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

Cooperative Baptist FELLOWSHIP

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Financial Report:

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November 2011 Contributions	Undesignated - $97,404	Designated - $172,753

April 2011 - March 2012 Monthly Undesignated Goal: $132,604

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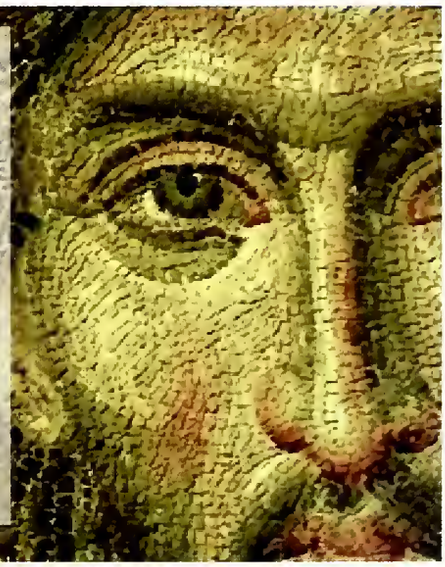

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Upcoming Events ~ January/February Edition

Youth Ski Retreat
January 27-29, 2012
Winterplace Ski Resort in West Virginia

Collegiate Mid-Winter Retreat
January 28-29, 2012
Camp Mundo Vista

Christian Coaching Certificate Training
501 Class: Building Blocks of Powerful Coaching
February 6-7, 2012

New Minister's Luncheon
February 9, 2012
CBFNC offices, Winston-Salem

ChurchWorks conference
February 27-March 1, 2012
Norfolk, VA

CBFNC General Assembly
March 23-24, 2012
Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh

CBFNC General Assembly — Youth Edition
March 23-24, 2012
Millbrook Baptist Church and Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh

7th Annual Children's Choir Festival
March 24, 2012
Raleigh

Christian Coaching Certificate Training
502 Class: Establishing a Dynamic Coaching Relationship
April 2-3, 2012

Adult Spirituality Retreat
April 13-15, 2012
Caraway Conference Center

8th Annual Youth Choir Festival
April 20-21, 2012
First, Greensboro

Impacting Tomorrow: Traditional Churches Finding Their Future in God's Story
May 18-19, 2012
Providence, Charlotte

SELAHvie
August 6-9, 2012
Talladega, AL

The photos above are from CBFNC's Fall Fellowship on the Move at Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist in Fayetteville on November 6, 2011.

CBFNC's Fall Fellowship on the Move brought diverse groups together in Sylva, Fayetteville and Mount Airy to discuss immigration, invisible neighbors, motivating generosity and many more topics. Visit our website, *www.cbfnc.org*, for photos, audio recordings and other resources from these events.

Visit *www.CBFNC.org* to register and for more information.

The Gathering is published six times a year. All questions may be directed to Sarah Mitchell, (336) 759-3456 or (888) 822-1944 or smitchell@cbfnc.org.
For story submissions, contact Sarah Mitchell for requirements and newsletter deadlines.

November/December 2011 • Vol. 16 Issue 6 **Bringing Baptists of North Carolina Together for Christ-Centered Ministry**

The Gathering

of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

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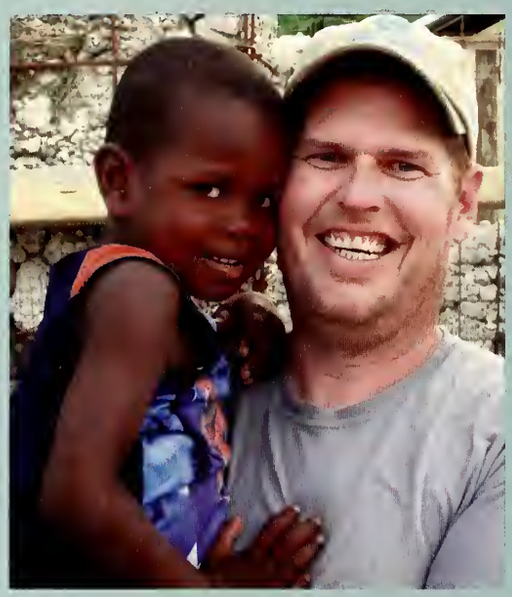
Haiti: Three Conclusions and One Challenge PAGE 2

Discipleship, Stewardship and Mission: A Perspective from Haiti

by Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator

At the CBFNC General Assembly in March at FBC Asheville, our mission offering collection was designated for the newly formed Haiti Housing Network (HHN). CBF is one of the principal partners in this network, which has the ambitious goal of building one thousand homes in the Grand Goave community over the next three years. At the assembly, we asked Dr. Steve Bissette, a family physician and member of Ardmore Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, to issue the challenge and prayer for the offering. Dr. Bissette, husband of CBFNC moderator Donna Bissette, had taken a group of college students to Haiti to perform medical and construction work the previous summer.



During his appeal, Dr. Bissette told the large group of worshippers that if they contributed enough money to build a house (then estimated to be $3,000, it has since been revised to $4,000), he would "personally guarantee that Larry Hovis would go on the trip and help build the house!" At the end of that service, in the euphoria of the moment, I upped the ante and challenged the assembly to contribute enough funds to build two houses, and publicly promised that I would, indeed, make the trip.

The trip was scheduled for the following August, right before the students' return to college. It was the hottest time of the year to visit one of the hottest places I've ever been. Prior to this journey, my daughter, Lauren, a college student for whom this was the third mission trip of 2011, encouraged me to read *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor ... and Yourself.* I found the book to be extremely thought provoking and it caused me to question, filter and analyze our mission trip (and all mission work) from a whole new perspective.

Our experience included meeting and worshipping with Haitian Baptists, meeting and learning from CBF global missions field personnel and partners, administering basic medical treatment (provided by Dr. Bissette and a portion of our group for half the week), and working alongside Haitians in building a rubble house. Space limitations don't permit me to describe the fascinating process of rubble house construction, so I encourage you to visit *www.haitihousingnetwork.com* for more information.

I emerged from this week hot, tired, and sore, but also spiritually renewed. After processing this experience, I've drawn three conclusions and want to issue a challenge (see box on right).

CBF is Doing Missions Right

While the situation in Haiti is very discouraging in many ways, including the dysfunctional government and the ineffectiveness of much of the relief effort there, CBF and our primary partner, Conscience International, are functioning with good missiology and a wholistic, sustainable, Christ-centered approach. The field personnel we encountered (Mike and Brenda Harwood and Jenny Jenkins) are dedicated, smart individuals who would pass the muster of *When Helping Hurts*. Our CBF efforts are done with the Haitians, not for them, empowering them ultimately to provide for themselves, rather than perpetuating a culture of dependency.

Benefits of Short-Term Mission Engagement

While our team, no doubt, rendered some genuine service to the Haitians we encountered, we were the primary beneficiaries of our trip. Our faith was challenged, strengthened and renewed as we traveled together, experienced a new culture, prayed together, met and worshipped with Christian brothers and sisters who are materially poor but spiritually rich. We also interacted with our CBF missions field personnel who have sacrificed greatly to live and serve in a hard place. If we are honest, then we have to admit that in terms of impact, it was more of a discipleship development experience for our group of American Christians than direct ministry to needy Haitians.

Field Personnel More Important, Not Less

It's been customary, after thirty years of the short-term volunteer missions movement, to pat ourselves on the back for taking a week or two of our lives every year for a mission trip, and call ourselves missionaries. Some Christians and churches have questioned the need for vocational, field-based, full-time missionaries, and their support of such personnel has declined as they devote more and more resources to supporting their members in short-term projects and trips. But I came back from Haiti more convinced than ever of the necessity of "professional" missionaries. Mike, Brenda, Jenny and others built the relationships and prepared the way for us to have a meaningful experience. They remain in place long after we are gone. They get to know the people and the culture and ensure that our brief work is done in a way that helps rather than hurts those we purport to serve. Ironically, the more volunteers we send on short-term mission trips, the more vital our field personnel become.

A Modest (or is it Radical?) Proposal

Because God's mission to the most neglected and least evangelized people in the world along with the discipleship development of short-term missions

continued on page 5

Documentary Screenings Shine Light on Local Issues in North Carolina

by Laura Barclay, Social Ministries Coordinator

On September 19, 2011, a bi-vocational Hispanic pastor told an interfaith gathering at the First Baptist Church of Greensboro how stressful the threat of deportation has been for him and his family—all of whom are American citizens.

"They put me and my family through all this stress and worrying and not knowing for a year,"

said Hector Villanueva, pastor of *Iglesia Bautista La Roca* in Siler City, a congregation affiliated with CBFNC.

Villanueva, a legal resident, was one of three panelists who spoke after the first screening of "Gospel Without Borders," a documentary funded by the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas with financial support from CBFNC.

Mike Aiken, executive director of Greensboro Urban Ministries, said, "The Bible clearly says in the Old and New Testaments that we should welcome the stranger." He went on to say, "I don't see any Native Americans here. This means in our heritage, we are all immigrants."

Fred Guttman, rabbi at Temple Emanuel, shared that after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, he and other faith leaders came together for a press conference "about not having fear and not persecuting those who are different," referring to our Muslim neighbors. Now, ten years later, immigration is a similar issue because we have to be ready to welcome the stranger as Abraham did in Genesis 18, said Guttman.

During the dialogue session with panelists, a number of ideas were shared about how to engage the immigration issue. Guttman and David Fraccaro, director of Faith Action International House, spoke about holding a Dream Act Sabbath in local congregations using toolkits from *www.interfaithimmigration.org*.

Bridget Johnson, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church and a former Catholic Social Services employee, suggested that denominations could partner with their social services to form networks.

Aiken and Villanueva stressed the importance of congregations building relationships cross-culturally through joint missions efforts. Villanueva shared that his congregation was offering English classes so that his congregants could get to know their Anglo neighbors.

Robert Parham, executive director of *EthicsDaily.com*, which produced the documentary, noted that the energy in the Greensboro screening and many others taking place around the country could contribute to building the momentum needed to lead to immigration reform.

"We need to preach from the pulpit and lobby in the pews," said Guttman.

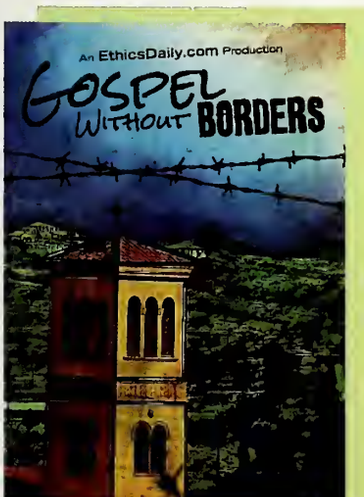
I shared with the audience of more than 50 that all CBFNC-affiliated churches and partner divinity schools will receive a copy of the DVD and will be urged to hold screenings in their communities and churches.

The next day, another screening was held at Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte that drew another engaged, ecumenical audience. Maria Hanlin, Executive Director of Mecklenburg Ministries, and Shawn O'Neal of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte served as panelists.

O'Neal reminded the audience that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were immigrants when they fled to Egypt, and that Christ's story calls for compassion, stating, "People aren't problems. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ."

Hanlin evoked communion imagery when she asked, "If Jesus invites all to the table, who do *we* exclude? Often it is those with darker skin, those who clean our hotel rooms. That is not right." She also encouraged the audience to rely on Scriptures, stating, "We have to know our Bible and be brave enough to preach it—not just to condemn sins that are not our own."

Note: CBFNC also sponsored a screening at FBC Raleigh on October 3rd, but print deadline preceded this screening.



Host your own screening!

Your CBFNC-affiliated church or divinity school will receive a copy of "Gospel Without Borders" in the mail soon.

- Consider partnering with other churches and non-profits for a community screening.
- Watch and discuss each chapter for a Sunday School series, utilizing the online discussion guide at *www.ethicsdaily.com*.
- Check out additional resources on our immigration page at *www.cbfnc.org/missions/immigration.aspx*.
- E-mail us your stories from the screenings. We want to hear your ideas for welcoming your immigrant neighbor!

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Raising Up a New Generation for Christ

by Tito Madrazo, First, Drexel

Last summer marked our second mission trip to Mexico City. In a two-year partnership with local churches and community centers, we renovated buildings, ran a health clinic, provided sewing lessons, and taught Vacation Bible School. Best of all, we had prayed with more than 75 children as they accepted Jesus Christ as their savior. It was exhilarating.

But we came back home with the question hanging over us, "How can we be more effective in reaching the children in our own backyard?" That can be a difficult question for a medium-size church like ours, ministering with limited resources in a small-town setting. Our answer began to take shape in unlikely ways as I met with our new elementary school principal to welcome him to the community. We already had a good relationship with the school, sponsoring a dental bus ministry and offering free summer tutoring, but I asked our new principal if there were other ways we could be supportive.

That's when he told me about an after-school Bible club that a church had conducted at his former school. It sounded like a great opportunity, but I had questions in my mind about how it would work and how this other church had ministered effectively while still respecting the boundaries of church and state. So, I called their pastor, we met up for breakfast, and he graciously shared with me what he had learned over two years of after-school ministry.

When I first brought the idea before our church, everyone was excited, but a little nervous about how we could get a ministry like this up off the ground. We had planning sessions and started signing up volunteers who would lead small groups, teach music, serve snacks, and organize recreation for what we were now calling Club 316.

One of our biggest challenges was letting children and parents know what we were doing. We couldn't ask the school to advertise a religious program, so we set up a booth at Open House along with all of the other clubs and community organizations. Several dozen parents signed permission slips and waiver forms to allow their children to join us on Monday afternoons from 2:45-4:15. We also reached out to parents whose children were already involved in the elementary's after-school childcare program.

On September 13th, we kicked off Club 316 with 86 kids. We divided them in four age-based groups and rotated them through our schedule. Now, I've taught all ages of people in all kinds of settings,

but holding the attention of 40-50 kids at the end of a long day of school was the most difficult teaching assignment I've ever had. We ended up using a VeggieTales curriculum and shared the gospel each week through a combination of videos, puppets, and play-acting.

Over the course of the year, we ministered to more than 130 kids. We took time at the end of each semester to follow up with them individually about what they had learned, and 11 kids from Club 316 accepted Christ for the first time, while several others expressed a desire to be baptized. Some of them have been baptized in other churches where their families are members, but many of them, including several who were previously unchurched, have been baptized during our Sunday morning worship services. Now they come to our Wednesday night children's program and several of their families worship with us regularly as well.

Club 316 has given us a wonderful opportunity to reach our community across racial and socioeconomic lines, to reach families who might otherwise slip through the cracks, and to raise up a new generation for Christ.

A Perspective from Haiti continued from page 2

volunteers is dependent on the presence, effectiveness and faithfulness of vocational missions field personnel, I propose that CBF Christians and churches make the following pledge: for every dollar we spend to send a team on a short-term mission trip, we raise another dollar for the support of the field personnel with whom they work and their colleagues around the globe. For example, I estimate that the Ardmore group spent around $15,000 to send eleven persons to Haiti, not including the $6,000 CBFNC gave to the Haiti Housing Network. This money came from a combination of church funds and the personal funds of team members. Under this proposal, we would raise an additional $15,000 to support our CBF field personnel. If every CBF short-term mission team followed this practice, we would be able to increase the number of our career missionaries and significantly strengthen our mission efforts around the globe.

There was a time when we outsourced mission engagement to professionals and assumed ordinary Christians had no responsibility for global missions, other than supporting vocational missionaries. Thankfully, that's no longer the case. But has the pendulum swung too far in the other direction? In our time, have we assumed (by our stewardship, if not our words) that because we can travel all over the world we no longer need vocational missionaries? It's not either/or, but both/and. Our recent trip to Haiti made that very clear to me.

Save the date for the
2012 CBFNC General Assembly!

THE HEART OF JESUS:
That they *all* may be *one*
JOHN 17:21

March 23-24, 2012
Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh

worship speaker
Neville Callam
Baptist World Alliance General Secretary

Friday, March 23
Welcome and Orientation
Ministry Workshop Sessions
Fellowship Dinner (requires pre-registration)
Evening Worship
Fellowship Reception

Saturday, March 24
Ministry Workshop Session
Ministry Celebration
(incl. adoption of '12-'13 budget & council election)
Morning Worship

Learn more about General Assembly details and registration, ministry workshop titles, discounted hotel options, childcare reservations, and exhibitor applications at www.cbfnc.org.

Companerismo Cristiano Emanuelle Retreat Provides the Spark

by Cristy Zuniga, Raleigh

Once again, God has spread his grace on the retreat camps run by the Emmanuel Christian Fellowship (*Companerismo Cristiano Emanuelle*) where men, women, youth, children and families were challenged to "Walk by Faith." Words may be insufficient to describe the work done by our creator when churches work together, but God always blesses when people unite in praise and worship. With the support of CBFNC, we held five events to reach, train, and send more workers to start new ministries. Participants in these events are teams of Hispanic churches from NC affiliated with CBF.

God has given us the grace to grow quickly and develop more leaders. At the first event, on May 13-14, 2011, a large group of men gathered at Camp Mundo Vista for "Men Walking by Faith," witnessing the preaching and lectures by Dr. Gabriel Carro.

In the early days of June, First Hispanic Baptist Church of Sanford packed its facilities for their special guest, Pastor Gabriel Insulza. The pastor traveled from Mexico City to develop the theme, "Families Walking by Faith." God gave us the opportunity to train each family so that they could return to their local churches with the spark of wanting to serve God, work for God and grow the local church.

On July 30-31, children had the opportunity to enjoy the event, "Children Walking by Faith," where a large group of children understood and accepted the challenge of asking Jesus Christ into their lives. On August 5-7 during our youth retreat at Camp Caraway, we saw how God blessed the lives of many teenagers. Rev. Jason Cruz challenged them to live a life of faith. To bring a close to this exciting summer, our women's retreat, "Women Walking by Faith," was challenged by the speaker Yaniana Briseno.

Once again, the Emmanuel Christian Fellowship, supported by CBFNC, gave us the opportunity to work together to strengthen the communion between our churches, to strengthen each of our gifts, and plan the foundation for more churches working together for the glory of God.

Throughout these events, so many of us could see how walking with God is something priceless!

2012 CBFNC Theological Education Scholarship Recipients Each scholar included their hometown, church and vocational goal. To learn more about giving to theological education through CBFNC, visit www.cbfnc.org.

Scholars from North Carolina who attend Out-of-State Schools

Thomas Alexander Alvarado
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Roca Fuerte, Pittsboro
Music Leader

Jennie Nohemi Campos
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Sanford
Youth Pastor/Social Worker

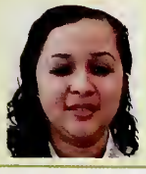
Brian Charland
T. Walter Brashier Graduate School
at North Greenville University
Fairmont, NC
First Baptist, Fairmont
Pastor

Jessica Chastain
George W. Truett Theological Seminary
& Baylor University School of Social Work
Murphy, NC
Cullowhee Baptist, Cullowhee
Social Justice Ministry

Carlos Alberto Chavez
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Sanford
Pastor

Mary Kate Christian
McAfee School of Theology
Hickory, NC
Peachtree Baptist, Atlanta
Youth Ministry

Nicholas Clanton
George W. Truett Theological Seminary
Concord, NC
Cullowhee Baptist, Cullowhee
Social Justice or Collegiate Ministry



Ada I. Cruz
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Sanford
Women's Speaker

Juan Carlos Escobar
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Roca Fuerte, Pittsboro
Music Leader

Lesley-Ann Hix
McAfee School of Theology
Greensboro, NC
First Baptist, Greensboro
Photo Journalism/Documentary work for Mission Organizations

Jose G. Jimenez
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Roca Fuerte, Pittsboro
Music Leader

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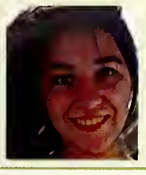
Marion, NC
First Baptist, Jamaica Plain, MA
Pastoral Ministry

Sandra L. Lizama
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Sanford
Missions

Benito Francisco Lopez
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Sanford
Chaplain

Rebecca Crumpler Mathis
The School of Theology
at The University of the South
Whiteville, NC
First Baptist, Chattanooga, TN
Social Justice Ministry

Jennifer Richardson Readling
Pfeiffer University
Mooresville, NC
First Baptist, Huntersville
Children's Ministry



Barbara Andrea Sostaita
Salem College
Rural Hall, NC
Iglesia Cristiana Sin Fronteras, Rural Hall
Full-time Minister

M. Christopher White School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb

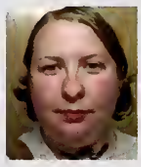
www.gardner-webb.edu/admissions/graduate/divinity
Boiling Springs, NC
Degrees Offered: Master of Divinity, Doctor of Ministry

John David Barnette
Hickory, NC
First Baptist, Lincolnton
Chaplaincy/Christian Counseling

Susan C. Borders
Shelby, NC
Washington Missionary Baptist
Christian Counselor

Kyle Chastain
Canton, NC
Double Springs Baptist, Shelby
Pastoral Work

Jennifer Lauren Graves
Boiling Springs, NC
Arise Church, Kings Mountain
Children's Ministry



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Candler, NC
Providence Baptist, Hendersonville
Chaplain

Terry K. Roach
Marion, NC
Clinchfield Baptist, Marion
Pastor

Brian Simpson
Gastonia, NC
First Baptist, Lincolnton
Associate Pastor for Counseling and Education/Chaplain

Lynette James Sills
Asheville, NC
First Baptist, Asheville
Teach, Lead, Serve and Write

Chelsy Megan Woods
Durham, NC
Hope Valley Baptist, Durham
Hospice Grief Counseling/Chaplain

Campbell University Divinity School

www.campbell.edu/divinity, Buies Creek, NC
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M Div/MA in Community Counseling

Daniel Heath
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First Baptist, Wilson
Youth Minister

Amy McClure
Clyde, NC
First Baptist, Clayton
Preaching and Pastoral Care

Sandy Stillman-Alvin
Raleigh, NC
Woodhaven Baptist, Apex
Family Minister/Counselor

Alicia Turner
Shelby, NC
Forest Hills Baptist, Raleigh
Missions

Tyler G. Wood
Smithfield, NC
First Baptist, Smithfield
Full-time International Missions

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www.divinity.wfu.edu
Winston-Salem, NC
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Chris Hughes
Louisville, KY
First Baptist, Elkin
Pastor

John Rhode Callaway
Boiling Springs, SC
First Baptist Church Winston-Salem, Highland Avenue
Student Ministry

Rob Lemons
Clemmons, NC
Ardmore Baptist, Winston-Salem
Missions or Administrative Pastor

Laura Michelle Foley
Fayetteville, NC
Wake Forest Baptist, Winston-Salem
Inclusive Ministry

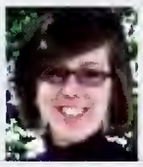
Jonathan Redding
Hudson, NC
Peace Haven Baptist, Winston-Salem
Pastor

Baptist House of Studies at Duke Divinity School

www.divinity.duke.edu/programs/baptisthouse, Durham, NC
Degrees Offered: Master of Divinity, Master of Theology, MA of Theological Studies, Doctor of Theology

Aaron Griffith
Durham, NC
Swepsonville United Methodist, Swepsonville
Teaching, Christian Education, Pastoral Ministry

Bert Ellison
Boone, NC
University Baptist, Chapel Hill
Collegiate Ministry



Katie Morgan
Etowah, TN
Greenwood Forest Baptist, Cary
Children's Ministry and Missions

Youth Ski Retreat
January 27-29, 2012
Winterplace Ski Resort in WV

New Baptist Covenant II

November 17-19, 2011

There will be a video broadcast of worship services and breakout sessions from Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, shown at these NC churches: First Baptist in Asheville, First Baptist in Ahoskie, and Emmanuel Baptist in Winston-Salem.

For more information, visit *www.cbfnc.org*.

Young Leaders Training

Session 1: November 28 – December 1, 2011
Session 2: January 23-26, 2012
Session 3: March 5-7, 2012

Location: Family Resource Center on the Baptist Children's Home campus in Thomasville, NC

For more information, visit *www.healthychurch.org*.

New Contributing CBFNC Partner Churches (As of Sept. 20, 2011)

Central, Spruce Pine (new MRP* contributor)

First, Wallace (new MRP* contributor)

*Mission Resource Plan - visit www.CBFNC.org

CBF Missions Field Personnel Off-Field Assignments in Our Area

Lita and Rick Sample
Raleigh from July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012
Lsample@thefellowship.info
or *Rsample@thefellowship.info*

Melody and Sam Harrell
Raleigh from June 4, 2011 – January 5, 2012
Harrell@africaexchange.org

Chaouki and Maha Boulos
Rock Hill, SC, from Oct. 14, 2011 – Jan. 30, 2012
Operationantioch@hotmail.com

Coordinator Visits July-September 2011

Brunswick Island, Supply
First, Elkin
First, Elon
First, Lenoir
First, Mocksville
First, Monroe
First, Raleigh
First, Stanfield
First, Stoneville
First, Sylva
First, Tryon
First, Wallace
Knightdale, Knightdale
Pritchard Memorial, Charlotte
St. John's, Raleigh
Temple, Wilmington
The Summit, Cullowhee
Viewmont, Hickory
White Oak, Clayton

Ministers on the Move

Compiled by Jack Causey, Ministerial Resources Coordinator

Our encouragement and support go to the following ministers who have recently moved:

Paul Batson has been called as pastor of Nobles Chapel Baptist Church in Sims.

Gordon Benton has begun his ministry as pastor of the Beech Glen Baptist Church in Mars Hill.

Race Path Baptist Church in Ellenboro has called **Randall Cooper** as pastor.

Matthew Costner has been called as pastor of First Baptist Church of Spruce Pine.

Lauren Efird has been called to Greenwood Forest Baptist Church as Minister of Youth.

Tim Elmore has been called as pastor of Central Baptist Church in Spruce Pine.

Steve Epperson has been called as pastor of Cherry Point Baptist Church in Havelock.

Fair Bluff Baptist Church in Fair Bluff has called **Dave Hawes** as pastor.

Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Fayetteville has called **Scot McCosh** as pastor. **Paula McCosh**, Scot's wife, is on the staff of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church as Children and Youth Pastor.

Knollwood Baptist Church in Winston-Salem has called **Bob Setzer** as pastor.

When you make a move or know of someone who has changed places of ministry, let us know at jcausey@cbfnc.org. **For assistance to search committees and ministers seeking vocational discernment, visit our reference and referral page on our website at www.cbfnc.org or call 336-759-3456 or 888-822-1944.**

The Gathering

of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

Cooperative Baptist FELLOWSHIP

phone: 336.759.3456 • phone: 888.822.1944 • fax: 336.759.3459 • cbfnc@cbfnc.org • www.cbfnc.org .

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Sarah Mitchell	Communications Manager	SMitchell@cbfnc.org	
Gail McAlister	Financial Manager	GMcalister@cbfnc.org	
Allison Gallimore	Administrative Assistant	AGallimore@cbfnc.org	

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Hector Villanueva, Pittsboro
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CBF National Council Members from NC
Darryl Aaron, Winston-Salem
Roger Gilbert, Mount Airy
Don Gordon, Durham
Beth McConnell, Charlotte
Glenn Phillips, Goldsboro
Robin Roberts, Raleigh
Blenda Price Sloniker, Hickory

Financial Report:

July 2011 Contributions	Undesignated - $145,705	Designated - $203,951
August 2011 Contributions	Undesignated - $97,089	Designated - $177,429

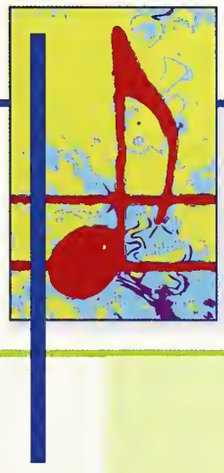
April 2011 - March 2012 Monthly Undesignated Goal: $132,604

CHURCHWORKS! CONFERENCE

The ChurchWorks Conference provides opportunities for ministers to discover new ideas and meet others who are also in vocational ministry. The conference combines worship and small group time into a setting where ministers deepen their understanding of their ministry and how it relates to their church environment.

February 27-March 1, 2012
Norfolk, VA

For more information, visit
www.thefellowship.info/churchworks



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC

2012 Music Festivals

Children's Choir Festival

March 24, 2012, in Raleigh, NC

For Children in Grades 4-6
Registration: www.cbfnc.org,
deadline March 9.

Youth Choir Festival

April 20-21, 2012
First Baptist Church, Greensboro

For Youth in Grades 7-12
Registration: www.cbfnc.org
deadline April 1.

fellowship
888-822-1944
www.cbfnc.org

Bringing Baptists of North Carolina Together for Christ-Centered Ministry

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Upcoming Events ~ November/December Edition

Children's Missions Days
November 5, 2011
First Baptist, Raleigh
Calvary Baptist, Asheville

Adult Sunday School Teacher Training
November 6, 2011
First, Kannapolis

Fall Fellowship on the Move 2011
November 6, 2011
Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Fayetteville

Fall Fellowship on the Move 2011
November 10, 2011
Flat Rock Baptist Church in Mt. Airy

Adult Sunday School Teacher Training
November 13, 2011
First, Gastonia

New Baptist Covenant
(video broadcast)
November 17-19, 2011

Children's Missions Days
November 19, 2011
First Baptist Church, Rockingham

Young Leaders' Training
Session 1: Nov. 28-Dec. 1, 2011
Baptist Children's Home, Thomasville

Christian Coaching Certificate Training
506 Class: December 5-6, 2011
508 Class: December 6-7, 2011

Youth Ski Retreat
January 27-29, 2012
Winterplace Ski Resort, WV

Christian Coaching Certificate Training
501 Class: Building Blocks of Powerful Coaching
February 6-7, 2012

CBFNC General Assembly
March 23-24, 2012
Trinity Baptist, Raleigh

7th Annual Children's Choir Festival
March 24, 2012
Raleigh

Christian Coaching Certificate Training
502 Class: Establishing a Dynamic Coaching Relationship
April 2-3, 2012

Adult Spirituality Retreat
April 13-15, 2012
Caraway Conference Center

8th Annual Youth Choir Festival
April 20-21, 2012
First, Greensboro

Impacting Tomorrow: Traditional Churches Finding Their Future in God's Story
May 18-19, 2012
Providence, Charlotte

Visit *www.CBFNC.org* to register and for more information.

The Gathering is published six times a year. All questions may be directed to Sarah Mitchell, (336) 759-3456 or (888) 822-1944 or smitchell@cbfnc.org.
For story submissions, contact Sarah Mitchell for requirements and newsletter deadlines.

November/December 2011 • Vol. 16 Issue 6 **Bringing Baptists of North Carolina Together for Christ-Centered Ministry**

The Gathering

of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

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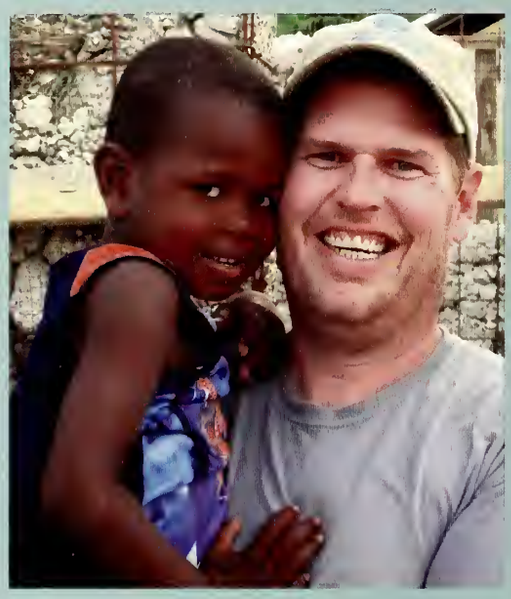
Haiti: Three Conclusions and One Challenge PAGE 2

Discipleship, Stewardship and Mission: A Perspective from Haiti

by Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator

At the CBFNC General Assembly in March at FBC Asheville, our mission offering collection was designated for the newly formed Haiti Housing Network (HHN). CBF is one of the principal partners in this network, which has the ambitious goal of building one thousand homes in the Grand Goave community over the next three years. At the assembly, we asked Dr. Steve Bissette, a family physician and member of Ardmore Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, to issue the challenge and prayer for the offering. Dr. Bissette, husband of CBFNC moderator Donna Bissette, had taken a group of college students to Haiti to perform medical and construction work the previous summer.



During his appeal, Dr. Bissette told the large group of worshippers that if they contributed enough money to build a house (then estimated to be $3,000, it has since been revised to $4,000), he would "personally guarantee that Larry Hovis would go on the trip and help build the house!" At the end of that service, in the euphoria of the moment, I upped the ante and challenged the assembly to contribute enough funds to build two houses, and publicly promised that I would, indeed, make the trip.

The trip was scheduled for the following August, right before the students' return to college. It was the hottest time of the year to visit one of the hottest places I've ever been. Prior to this journey, my daughter, Lauren, a college student for whom this was the third mission trip of 2011, encouraged me to read *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor ... and Yourself.* I found the book to be extremely thought provoking and it caused me to question, filter and analyze our mission trip (and all mission work) from a whole new perspective.

Our experience included meeting and worshipping with Haitian Baptists, meeting and learning from CBF global missions field personnel and partners, administering basic medical treatment (provided by Dr. Bissette and a portion of our group for half the week), and working alongside Haitians in building a rubble house. Space limitations don't permit me to describe the fascinating process of rubble house construction, so I encourage you to visit *www.haitihousingnetwork.com* for more information.

I emerged from this week hot, tired, and sore, but also spiritually renewed. After processing this experience, I've drawn three conclusions and want to issue a challenge (see box on right).

CBF is Doing Missions Right

While the situation in Haiti is very discouraging in many ways, including the dysfunctional government and the ineffectiveness of much of the relief effort there, CBF and our primary partner, Conscience International, are functioning with good missiology and a wholistic, sustainable, Christ-centered approach. The field personnel we encountered (Mike and Brenda Harwood and Jenny Jenkins) are dedicated, smart individuals who would pass the muster of *When Helping Hurts*. Our CBF efforts are done with the Haitians, not for them, empowering them ultimately to provide for themselves, rather than perpetuating a culture of dependency.

Benefits of Short-Term Mission Engagement

While our team, no doubt, rendered some genuine service to the Haitians we encountered, we were the primary beneficiaries of our trip. Our faith was challenged, strengthened and renewed as we traveled together, experienced a new culture, prayed together, met and worshipped with Christian brothers and sisters who are materially poor but spiritually rich. We also interacted with our CBF missions field personnel who have sacrificed greatly to live and serve in a hard place. If we are honest, then we have to admit that in terms of impact, it was more of a discipleship development experience for our group of American Christians than direct ministry to needy Haitians.

Field Personnel More Important, Not Less

It's been customary, after thirty years of the short-term volunteer missions movement, to pat ourselves on the back for taking a week or two of our lives every year for a mission trip, and call ourselves missionaries. Some Christians and churches have questioned the need for vocational, field-based, full-time missionaries, and their support of such personnel has declined as they devote more and more resources to supporting their members in short-term projects and trips. But I came back from Haiti more convinced than ever of the necessity of "professional" missionaries. Mike, Brenda, Jenny and others built the relationships and prepared the way for us to have a meaningful experience. They remain in place long after we are gone. They get to know the people and the culture and ensure that our brief work is done in a way that helps rather than hurts those we purport to serve. Ironically, the more volunteers we send on short-term mission trips, the more vital our field personnel become.

A Modest (or is it Radical?) Proposal

Because God's mission to the most neglected and least evangelized people in the world along with the discipleship development of short-term missions

continued on page 5

Documentary Screenings Shine Light on Local Issues in North Carolina

by Laura Barclay, Social Ministries Coordinator

On September 19, 2011, a bi-vocational Hispanic pastor told an interfaith gathering at the First Baptist Church of Greensboro how stressful the threat of deportation has been for him and his family—all of whom are American citizens.

"They put me and my family through all this stress and worrying and not knowing for a year,"

said Hector Villanueva, pastor of *Iglesia Bautista La Roca* in Siler City, a congregation affiliated with CBFNC.

Villanueva, a legal resident, was one of three panelists who spoke after the first screening of "Gospel Without Borders," a documentary funded by the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas with financial support from CBFNC.

Mike Aiken, executive director of Greensboro Urban Ministries, said, "The Bible clearly says in the Old and New Testaments that we should welcome the stranger." He went on to say, "I don't see any Native Americans here. This means in our heritage, we are all immigrants."

Fred Guttman, rabbi at Temple Emanuel, shared that after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, he and other faith leaders came together for a press conference "about not having fear and not persecuting those who are different," referring to our Muslim neighbors. Now, ten years later, immigration is a similar issue because we have to be ready to welcome the stranger as Abraham did in Genesis 18, said Guttman.

During the dialogue session with panelists, a number of ideas were shared about how to engage the immigration issue. Guttman and David Fraccaro, director of Faith Action International House, spoke about holding a Dream Act Sabbath in local congregations using toolkits from *www.interfaithimmigration.org*.

Bridget Johnson, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church and a former Catholic Social Services employee, suggested that denominations could partner with their social services to form networks.

Aiken and Villanueva stressed the importance of congregations building relationships cross-culturally through joint missions efforts. Villanueva shared that his congregation was offering English classes so that his congregants could get to know their Anglo neighbors.

Robert Parham, executive director of *EthicsDaily.com*, which produced the documentary, noted that the energy in the Greensboro screening and many others taking place around the country could contribute to building the momentum needed to lead to immigration reform.

"We need to preach from the pulpit and lobby in the pews," said Guttman.

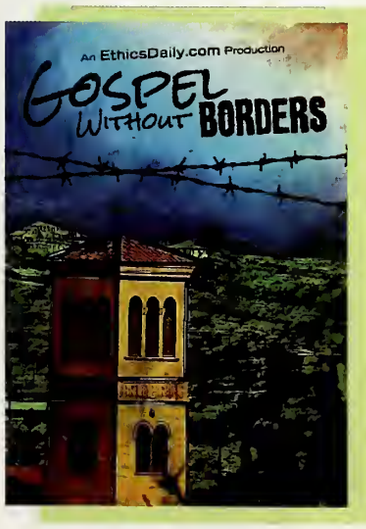
I shared with the audience of more than 50 that all CBFNC-affiliated churches and partner divinity schools will receive a copy of the DVD and will be urged to hold screenings in their communities and churches.

The next day, another screening was held at Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte that drew another engaged, ecumenical audience. Maria Hanlin, Executive Director of Mecklenburg Ministries, and Shawn O'Neal of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte served as panelists.

O'Neal reminded the audience that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were immigrants when they fled to Egypt, and that Christ's story calls for compassion, stating, "People aren't problems. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ."

Hanlin evoked communion imagery when she asked, "If Jesus invites all to the table, who do *we* exclude? Often it is those with darker skin, those who clean our hotel rooms. That is not right." She also encouraged the audience to rely on Scriptures, stating, "We have to know our Bible and be brave enough to preach it—not just to condemn sins that are not our own."

Note: CBFNC also sponsored a screening at FBC Raleigh on October 3rd, but print deadline preceded this screening.



Host your own screening!

Your CBFNC-affiliated church or divinity school will receive a copy of "Gospel Without Borders" in the mail soon.

- Consider partnering with other churches and non-profits for a community screening.
- Watch and discuss each chapter for a Sunday School series, utilizing the online discussion guide at *www.ethicsdaily.com*.
- Check out additional resources on our immigration page at *www.cbfnc.org/missions/immigration.aspx*.
- E-mail us your stories from the screenings. We want to hear your ideas for welcoming your immigrant neighbor!

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www.fellowship.info/give

Raising Up a New Generation for Christ

by Tito Madrazo, First, Drexel

Last summer marked our second mission trip to Mexico City. In a two-year partnership with local churches and community centers, we renovated buildings, ran a health clinic, provided sewing lessons, and taught Vacation Bible School. Best of all, we had prayed with more than 75 children as they accepted Jesus Christ as their savior. It was exhilarating.

But we came back home with the question hanging over us, "How can we be more effective in reaching the children in our own backyard?" That can be a difficult question for a medium-size church like ours, ministering with limited resources in a small-town setting. Our answer began to take shape in unlikely ways as I met with our new elementary school principal to welcome him to the community. We already had a good relationship with the school, sponsoring a dental bus ministry and offering free summer tutoring, but I asked our new principal if there were other ways we could be supportive.

That's when he told me about an after-school Bible club that a church had conducted at his former school. It sounded like a great opportunity, but I had questions in my mind about how it would work and how this other church had ministered effectively while still respecting the boundaries of church and state. So, I called their pastor, we met up for breakfast, and he graciously shared with me what he had learned over two years of after-school ministry.

When I first brought the idea before our church, everyone was excited, but a little nervous about how we could get a ministry like this up off the ground. We had planning sessions and started signing up volunteers who would lead small groups, teach music, serve snacks, and organize recreation for what we were now calling Club 316.

One of our biggest challenges was letting children and parents know what we were doing. We couldn't ask the school to advertise a religious program, so we set up a booth at Open House along with all of the other clubs and community organizations. Several dozen parents signed permission slips and waiver forms to allow their children to join us on Monday afternoons from 2:45-4:15. We also reached out to parents whose children were already involved in the elementary's after-school childcare program.

On September 13th, we kicked off Club 316 with 86 kids. We divided them in four age-based groups and rotated them through our schedule. Now, I've taught all ages of people in all kinds of settings,

but holding the attention of 40-50 kids at the end of a long day of school was the most difficult teaching assignment I've ever had. We ended up using a VeggieTales curriculum and shared the gospel each week through a combination of videos, puppets, and play-acting.

Over the course of the year, we ministered to more than 130 kids. We took time at the end of each semester to follow up with them individually about what they had learned, and 11 kids from Club 316 accepted Christ for the first time, while several others expressed a desire to be baptized. Some of them have been baptized in other churches where their families are members, but many of them, including several who were previously unchurched, have been baptized during our Sunday morning worship services. Now they come to our Wednesday night children's program and several of their families worship with us regularly as well.

Club 316 has given us a wonderful opportunity to reach our community across racial and socioeconomic lines, to reach families who might otherwise slip through the cracks, and to raise up a new generation for Christ.

A Perspective from Haiti continued from page 2

volunteers is dependent on the presence, effectiveness and faithfulness of vocational missions field personnel, I propose that CBF Christians and churches make the following pledge: for every dollar we spend to send a team on a short-term mission trip, we raise another dollar for the support of the field personnel with whom they work and their colleagues around the globe. For example, I estimate that the Ardmore group spent around $15,000 to send eleven persons to Haiti, not including the $6,000 CBFNC gave to the Haiti Housing Network. This money came from a combination of church funds and the personal funds of team members. Under this proposal, we would raise an additional $15,000 to support our CBF field personnel. If every CBF short-term mission team followed this practice, we would be able to increase the number of our career missionaries and significantly strengthen our mission efforts around the globe.

There was a time when we outsourced mission engagement to professionals and assumed ordinary Christians had no responsibility for global missions, other than supporting vocational missionaries. Thankfully, that's no longer the case. But has the pendulum swung too far in the other direction? In our time, have we assumed (by our stewardship, if not our words) that because we can travel all over the world we no longer need vocational missionaries? It's not either/or, but both/and. Our recent trip to Haiti made that very clear to me.

Save the date for the
2012 CBFNC General Assembly!

THE HEART OF JESUS:
That they *all* may be *one*
JOHN 17:21

March 23-24, 2012
Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh

worship speaker
Neville Callam
Baptist World Alliance General Secretary

Friday, March 23
Welcome and Orientation
Ministry Workshop Sessions
Fellowship Dinner (requires pre-registration)
Evening Worship
Fellowship Reception

Saturday, March 24
Ministry Workshop Session
Ministry Celebration
(incl. adoption of '12-'13 budget & council election)
Morning Worship

Learn more about General Assembly details and registration, ministry workshop titles, discounted hotel options, childcare reservations, and exhibitor applications at www.cbfnc.org.

Companerismo Cristiano Emanuelle Retreat Provides the Spark

by Cristy Zuniga, Raleigh

Once again, God has spread his grace on the retreat camps run by the Emmanuel Christian Fellowship (*Companerismo Cristiano Emanuelle*) where men, women, youth, children and families were challenged to "Walk by Faith." Words may be insufficient to describe the work done by our creator when churches work together, but God always blesses when people unite in praise and worship. With the support of CBFNC, we held five events to reach, train, and send more workers to start new ministries. Participants in these events are teams of Hispanic churches from NC affiliated with CBF.

God has given us the grace to grow quickly and develop more leaders. At the first event, on May 13-14, 2011, a large group of men gathered at Camp Mundo Vista for "Men Walking by Faith," witnessing the preaching and lectures by Dr. Gabriel Carro.

In the early days of June, First Hispanic Baptist Church of Sanford packed its facilities for their special guest, Pastor Gabriel Insulza. The pastor traveled from Mexico City to develop the theme, "Families Walking by Faith." God gave us the opportunity to train each family so that they could return to their local churches with the spark of wanting to serve God, work for God and grow the local church.

On July 30-31, children had the opportunity to enjoy the event, "Children Walking by Faith," where a large group of children understood and accepted the challenge of asking Jesus Christ into their lives. On August 5-7 during our youth retreat at Camp Caraway, we saw how God blessed the lives of many teenagers. Rev. Jason Cruz challenged them to live a life of faith. To bring a close to this exciting summer, our women's retreat, "Women Walking by Faith," was challenged by the speaker Yaniana Briseno.

Once again, the Emmanuel Christian Fellowship, supported by CBFNC, gave us the opportunity to work together to strengthen the communion between our churches, to strengthen each of our gifts, and plan the foundation for more churches working together for the glory of God.

Throughout these events, so many of us could see how walking with God is something priceless!

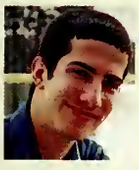
2012 CBFNC Theological Education Scholarship Recipients

Each scholar included their hometown, church and vocational goal. To learn more about giving to theological education through CBFNC, visit www.cbfnc.org.

Scholars from North Carolina who attend Out-of-State Schools

Thomas Alexander Alvarado
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Roca Fuerte, Pittsboro
Music Leader

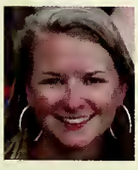
Jennie Nohemi Campos
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Sanford
Youth Pastor/Social Worker



Brian Charland
T. Walter Brashier Graduate School
at North Greenville University
Fairmont, NC
First Baptist, Fairmont
Pastor

Jessica Chastain
George W. Truett Theological Seminary
& Baylor University School of Social Work
Murphy, NC
Cullowhee Baptist, Cullowhee
Social Justice Ministry

Carlos Alberto Chavez
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Sanford
Pastor



Mary Kate Christian
McAfee School of Theology
Hickory, NC
Peachtree Baptist, Atlanta
Youth Ministry

Nicholas Clanton
George W. Truett Theological Seminary
Concord, NC
Cullowhee Baptist, Cullowhee
Social Justice or Collegiate Ministry

Ada I. Cruz
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Sanford
Women's Speaker

Juan Carlos Escobar
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Roca Fuerte, Pittsboro
Music Leader

Lesley-Ann Hix
McAfee School of Theology
Greensboro, NC
First Baptist, Greensboro
Photo Journalism/Documentary work for Mission Organizations

Jose G. Jimenez
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Roca Fuerte, Pittsboro
Music Leader

Mary V. Little
Boston University School of Theology
Marion, NC
First Baptist, Jamaica Plain, MA
Pastoral Ministry

Sandra L. Lizama
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Sanford
Missions

Benito Francisco Lopez
Baptist University of the Americas
Sanford, NC
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Sanford
Chaplain

Rebecca Crumpler Mathis
The School of Theology
at The University of the South
Whiteville, NC
First Baptist, Chattanooga, TN
Social Justice Ministry

Jennifer Richardson Readling
Pfeiffer University
Mooresville, NC
First Baptist, Huntersville
Children's Ministry

Barbara Andrea Sostaita
Salem College
Rural Hall, NC
Iglesia Cristiana Sin Fronteras, Rural Hall
Full-time Minister

M. Christopher White School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb

www.gardner-webb.edu/admissions/graduate/divinity
Boiling Springs, NC
Degrees Offered: Master of Divinity, Doctor of Ministry

John David Barnette
Hickory, NC
First Baptist, Lincolnton
Chaplaincy/Christian Counseling

Susan C. Borders
Shelby, NC
Washington Missionary Baptist
Christian Counselor

Kyle Chastain
Canton, NC
Double Springs Baptist, Shelby
Pastoral Work

Jennifer Lauren Graves
Boiling Springs, NC
Arise Church, Kings Mountain
Children's Ministry

Autumn Joy Riedel
Candler, NC
Providence Baptist, Hendersonville
Chaplain

Terry K. Roach
Marion, NC
Clinchfield Baptist, Marion
Pastor

Brian Simpson
Gastonia, NC
First Baptist, Lincolnton
Associate Pastor for Counseling and Education/Chaplain

Lynette James Sills
Asheville, NC
First Baptist, Asheville
Teach, Lead, Serve and Write

Chelsy Megan Woods
Durham, NC
Hope Valley Baptist, Durham
Hospice Grief Counseling/Chaplain

Campbell University Divinity School

www.campbell.edu/divinity, Buies Creek, NC
Degrees Offered: Master of Divinity,
MA in Christian Education, M Div/MBA, Doctor of Ministry,
M Div/MA in Community Counseling

Sandy Stillman-Alvin
Raleigh, NC
Woodhaven Baptist, Apex
Family Minister/Counselor

Daniel Heath
New Bern, NC
First Baptist, Wilson
Youth Minister

Amy McClure
Clyde, NC
First Baptist, Clayton
Preaching and Pastoral Care

Alicia Turner
Shelby, NC
Forest Hills Baptist, Raleigh
Missions

Tyler G. Wood
Smithfield, NC
First Baptist, Smithfield
Full-time International Missions

2012 CBFNC Theological Education Scholarship Recipients

Wake Forest School of Divinity

www.divinity.wfu.edu
Winston-Salem, NC
Degrees Offered: Master of Divinity, MA of Religion, M Div/Juris Doctor

Chris Hughes
Louisville, KY
First Baptist, Elkin
Pastor

John Rhode Callaway
Boiling Springs, SC
First Baptist Church Winston-Salem, Highland Avenue
Student Ministry

Rob Lemons
Clemmons, NC
Ardmore Baptist, Winston-Salem
Missions or Administrative Pastor

Laura Michelle Foley
Fayetteville, NC
Wake Forest Baptist, Winston-Salem
Inclusive Ministry

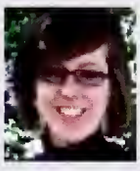
Jonathan Redding
Hudson, NC
Peace Haven Baptist, Winston-Salem
Pastor

Baptist House of Studies at Duke Divinity School

www.divinity.duke.edu/programs/baptisthouse, Durham, NC
Degrees Offered: Master of Divinity, Master of Theology, MA of Theological Studies, Doctor of Theology

Aaron Griffith
Durham, NC
Swepsonville United Methodist, Swepsonville
Teaching, Christian Education, Pastoral Ministry

Bert Ellison
Boone, NC
University Baptist, Chapel Hill
Collegiate Ministry



Katie Morgan
Etowah, TN
Greenwood Forest Baptist, Cary
Children's Ministry and Missions

A Missional Event to Empower Churches

May 18-19, 2012
Providence Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.

Sponsored by Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, The Columbia Partnership, and Center for Congregational Health.

For more information, visit www.cbfnc.org.

Youth Ski Retreat
January 27-29, 2012
Winterplace Ski Resort in WV

New Baptist Covenant II

November 17-19, 2011

There will be a video broadcast of worship services and breakout sessions from Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, shown at these NC churches: First Baptist in Asheville, First Baptist in Ahoskie, and Emmanuel Baptist in Winston-Salem.

For more information, visit *www.cbfnc.org*.

Young Leaders Training

Session 1: November 28 – December 1, 2011
Session 2: January 23-26, 2012
Session 3: March 5-7, 2012

Location: Family Resource Center on the Baptist Children's Home campus in Thomasville, NC

For more information, visit *www.healthychurch.org*.

CBF Missions Field Personnel Off-Field Assignments in Our Area

Lita and Rick Sample
Raleigh from July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012
Lsample@thefellowship.info
or *Rsample@thefellowship.info*

Melody and Sam Harrell
Raleigh from June 4, 2011 – January 5, 2012
Harrell@africaexchange.org

Chaouki and Maha Boulos
Rock Hill, SC, from Oct. 14, 2011 – Jan. 30, 2012
Operationantioch@hotmail.com

Coordinator Visits July-September 2011

Brunswick Island, Supply
First, Elkin
First, Elon
First, Lenoir
First, Mocksville
First, Monroe
First, Raleigh
First, Stanfield
First, Stoneville
First, Sylv.
First, Tryon
First, Wallace
Knightdale, Knightdale
Pritchard Memorial, Charlotte
St. John's, Raleigh
Temple, Wilmington
The Summit, Cullowhee
Viewmont, Hickory
White Oak, Clayton

New Contributing CBFNC Partner Churches (As of Sept. 20, 2011)

Central, Spruce Pine (new MRP* contributor)
First, Wallace (new MRP* contributor)

*Mission Resource Plan - visit www.CBFNC.org

Ministers on the Move

Compiled by Jack Causey, Ministerial Resources Coordinator

Our encouragement and support go to the following ministers who have recently moved:

Paul Batson has been called as pastor of Nobles Chapel Baptist Church in Sims.

Gordon Benton has begun his ministry as pastor of the Beech Glen Baptist Church in Mars Hill.

Race Path Baptist Church in Ellenboro has called **Randall Cooper** as pastor.

Matthew Costner has been called as pastor of First Baptist Church of Spruce Pine.

Lauren Efird has been called to Greenwood Forest Baptist Church as Minister of Youth.

Tim Elmore has been called as pastor of Central Baptist Church in Spruce Pine.

Steve Epperson has been called as pastor of Cherry Point Baptist Church in Havelock.

Fair Bluff Baptist Church in Fair Bluff has called **Dave Hawes** as pastor.

Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Fayetteville has called **Scot McCosh** as pastor. **Paula McCosh**, Scot's wife, is on the staff of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church as Children and Youth Pastor.

Knollwood Baptist Church in Winston-Salem has called **Bob Setzer** as pastor.

When you make a move or know of someone who has changed places of ministry, let us know at jcausey@cbfnc.org. **For assistance to search committees and ministers seeking vocational discernment, visit our reference and referral page on our website at www.cbfnc.org or call 336-759-3456 or 888-822-1944.**

The Gathering

of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

Cooperative Baptist FELLOWSHIP

phone: 336.759.3456 • phone: 888.822.1944 • fax: 336.759.3459 • cbfnc@cbfnc.org • www.cbfnc.org

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Rick Jordan	Church Resources Coordinator	RJordan@cbfnc.org	
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Jim Hylton	Business Administration Coordinator	JHylton@cbfnc.org	
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Sarah Mitchell	Communications Manager	SMitchell@cbfnc.org	
Gail McAlister	Financial Manager	GMcalister@cbfnc.org	
Allison Gallimore	Administrative Assistant	AGallimore@cbfnc.org	

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Ray Ammons, Gastonia, **Moderator-Elect**
Steve Little, Marion, **Past Moderator**
Greg Watson, Hickory, **Recorder**
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Bryan Harris, Smithfield
Beth Heffner, Rutherfordton
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Sophia Steibel, Boiling Springs
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Andrea Dellinger Jones, Raleigh
Nate Leonard, Kannapolis
Alicia Porterfield, Wilmington
Hector Villanueva, Pittsboro
Linda Winslow, Jamestown

CBF National Council Members from NC
Darryl Aaron, Winston-Salem
Roger Gilbert, Mount Airy
Don Gordon, Durham
Beth McConnell, Charlotte
Glenn Phillips, Goldsboro
Robin Roberts, Raleigh
Blenda Price Sloniker, Hickory

Financial Report:

July 2011 Contributions	Undesignated - $145,705	Designated - $203,951
August 2011 Contributions	Undesignated - $97,089	Designated - $177,429

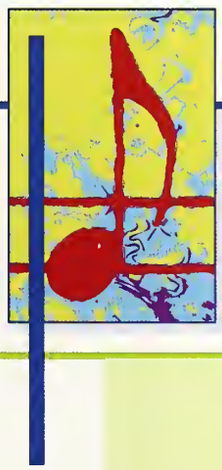
April 2011 - March 2012 Monthly Undesignated Goal: $132,604

CHURCHWORKS! CONFERENCE

The ChurchWorks Conference provides opportunities for ministers to discover new ideas and meet others who are also in vocational ministry. The conference combines worship and small group time into a setting where ministers deepen their understanding of their ministry and how it relates to their church environment.

February 27-March 1, 2012
Norfolk, VA

For more information, visit
www.thefellowship.info/churchworks



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC

2012 Music Festivals

Children's Choir Festival

March 24, 2012, in Raleigh, NC

For Children in Grades 4-6
Registration: www.cbfnc.org,
deadline March 9.

Youth Choir Festival

April 20-21, 2012
First Baptist Church, Greensboro

For Youth in Grades 7-12
Registration: www.cbfnc.org
deadline April 1.

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST
fellowship
OF NORTH CAROLINA
888-822-1944
www.cbfnc.org

Bringing Baptists of North Carolina
Together for Christ-Centered Ministry

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Upcoming Events ~ November/December Edition

Children's Missions Days
November 5, 2011
First Baptist, Raleigh
Calvary Baptist, Asheville

Adult Sunday School Teacher Training
November 6, 2011
First, Kannapolis

Fall Fellowship on the Move 2011
November 6, 2011
Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Fayetteville

Fall Fellowship on the Move 2011
November 10, 2011
Flat Rock Baptist Church in Mt. Airy

Adult Sunday School Teacher Training
November 13, 2011
First, Gastonia

New Baptist Covenant
(video broadcast)
November 17-19, 2011

Children's Missions Days
November 19, 2011
First Baptist Church, Rockingham

Young Leaders' Training
Session 1: Nov. 28-Dec. 1, 2011
Baptist Children's Home, Thomasville

Christian Coaching Certificate Training
506 Class: December 5-6, 2011
508 Class: December 6-7, 2011

Youth Ski Retreat
January 27-29, 2012
Winterplace Ski Resort, WV

Christian Coaching Certificate Training
501 Class: Building Blocks of Powerful Coaching
February 6-7, 2012

CBFNC General Assembly
March 23-24, 2012
Trinity Baptist, Raleigh

7th Annual Children's Choir Festival
March 24, 2012
Raleigh

Christian Coaching Certificate Training
502 Class: Establishing a Dynamic Coaching Relationship
April 2-3, 2012

Adult Spirituality Retreat
April 13-15, 2012
Caraway Conference Center

8th Annual Youth Choir Festival
April 20-21, 2012
First, Greensboro

Impacting Tomorrow: Traditional Churches Finding Their Future in God's Story
May 18-19, 2012
Providence, Charlotte

Visit *www.CBFNC.org* to register and for more information.

The Gathering is published six times a year. All questions may be directed to Sarah Mitchell, (336) 759-3456 or (888) 822-1944 or smitchell@cbfnc.org.
For story submissions, contact Sarah Mitchell for requirements and newsletter deadlines.

September/October 2011 • Vol. 16 Issue 5 **Bringing Baptists of North Carolina Together for Christ-Centered Ministry**

The Gathering

of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

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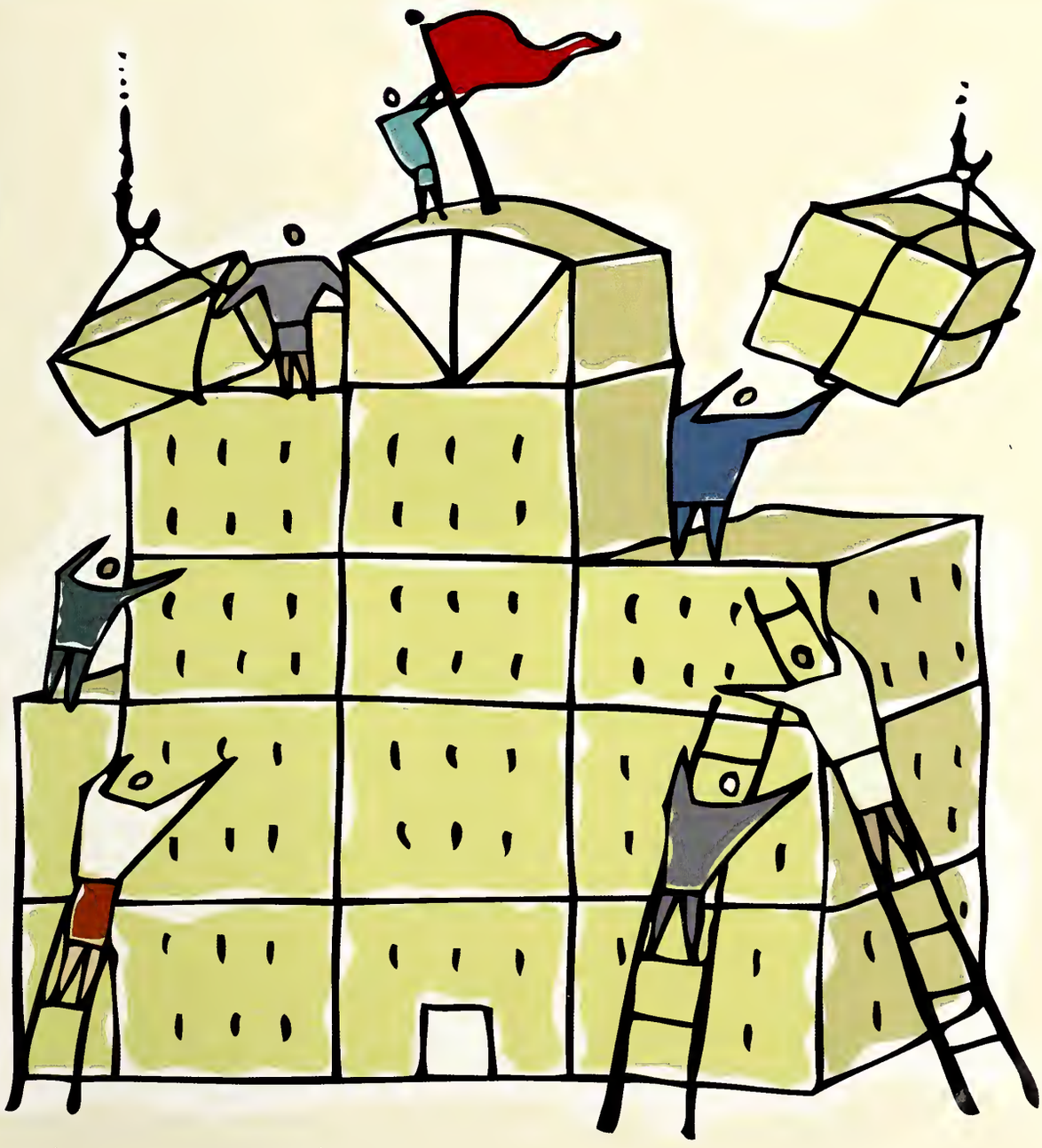
PAGES 6-7 ***National General Assembly Highlights*** by Norman Jameson

PAGE 8 ***Tampa Sessions Immerses Students in CBF Works*** by Wanda Kidd

PAGE 9 ***Meet Three Campus Ministers*** by Wanda Kidd



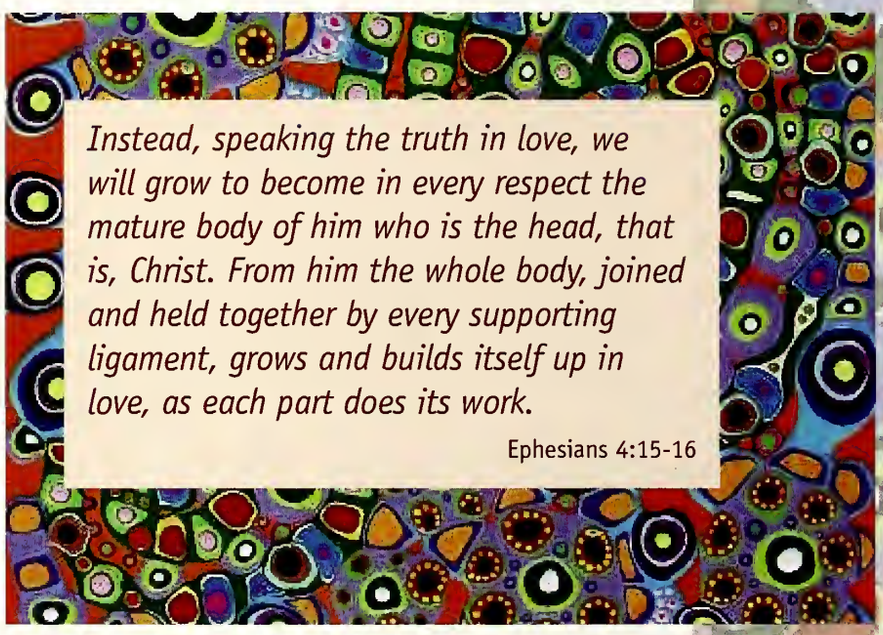
Working together to create a missional community

Let's Play Together

by Brent Greene, First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem

As a parent, former public educator and associate minister who serves and supports children's ministry, nothing brings me more joy than seeing a child reach a developmental milestone or rite of passage. Whether witnessing a child tie his shoes for the first time, seeing a youngster ride a bike without training wheels, or seeing a daughter pass a swim test at the local pool, these are all markers of maturity and progress that bring me and other parents great satisfaction and encouragement.

One developmental milestone that parents and educators observe that indicates a young preschooler is progressing is called parallel play. Parallel play is where children play beside one another but do not try to influence one another's behavior. Parallel play is highly social and contains cooperative interaction. As preschoolers and children progress, they move from independent play to social and cooperative play or "work." Maria Montessori, 20th century Italian physician and educator, described this more than a century ago when she said, "Play is the child's work."



Like young children, maturing Cooperative Baptist Christians have the wonderful opportunity to make Kingdom-of-God impact by moving from "parallel play" to "cooperative play." As individual Christians and congregations, we can seek to live out the Great Commandment and Great Commission working primarily alone or we can seek out opportunities to work, pray and give together, cooperatively expanding our influence in ever-growing ways because we share common values and beliefs.

As a child, adolescent and young adult growing up in North Carolina, I benefited greatly by the spirit of cooperation that Baptists of the South shared. As a young boy, I was part of a small-town Baptist church that was a blessing and spiritual guide in many ways. Because my church was part of a larger Baptist family that came together working with other congregations, I was able to benefit in life-changing experiences that I would have never known if my local church had not served and worked with other like-minded congregations. From participation in an associational Royal Ambassador Camp at age eight, to serving on an out-of-state mission trip with two other church youth groups that happened to include leaders Jan Cartledge and Tommy Justus, to traveling to Colorado and Brazil during college summer missions, I reached faith developmental milestones that I may have never had if like-minded Baptists had not worked together to provide such resources and opportunities.

Today, North Carolina Cooperative Baptists have the ongoing opportunity and responsibility to think beyond self or one's local church. By working together, North Carolina Cooperative Baptists can continue to partner together voluntarily for the sake of Christ and for the Kingdom of God. Some benefits and joint ventures that individuals and congregations experience today include:

- Coaching and leadership resources at a reduced cost to participants that enable individuals and congregations to become more effective;
- Missional focus and joint mission ventures, including church-start opportunities, community mission ventures like Operation InAsMuch, Children's Missions Days, and partnerships in other nations; and
- Supporting national and global field personnel through offerings and prayer that impact others in ways that churches and individuals could never afford to support alone.

In the future, CBFNC partners might consider working together to:

- **Share on-line web development and web presence with links that support fellow CBF churches.** For example, local CBF churches can and should mention other local churches and ministries especially when a sister church offers unique ministries that might benefit others.
- **Share staff or ministry consultants.** In this time of economic challenge, CBFNC congregations can fund and share professional ministerial staff to receive helpful leadership and guidance while saving on personnel cost, freeing funding for other ministry needs.

As Cooperative Baptists, many of our congregations share the common values of soul freedom, church freedom, Bible freedom and religious freedom. Although each Baptist Christian and congregation can celebrate unique callings and ministries within these four freedoms, let's look for more opportunities to "play together" in days to come. Working together as children or as adults is a sign of maturity and an opportunity for greater local, state and global impact ... not to mention "playing together" in the name of Jesus Christ is a lot more fun.

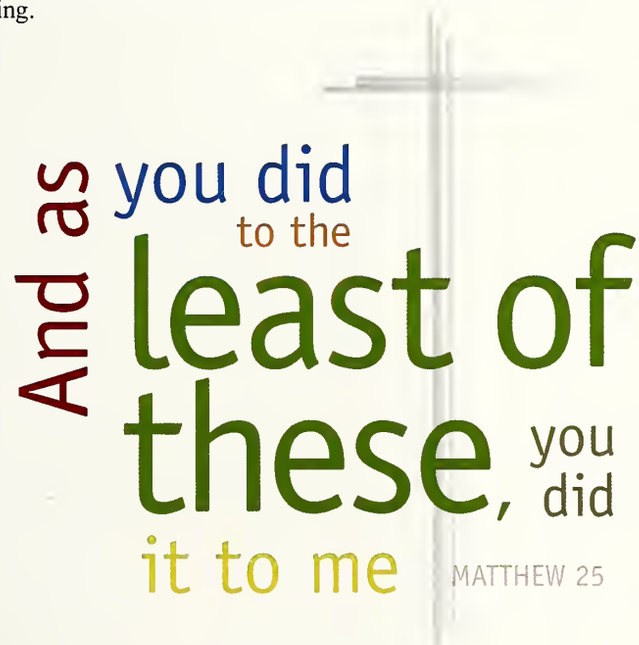
Gospel Without Borders

by Laura Barclay, CBFNC Social Ministries Coordinator

Many of you might be familiar with the story of one of our pastors, Hector Villanueva of *Iglesia Bautista la Roca* in Pittsboro, who was arrested last year by the sheriff's department at his house in front of his wife and children. Hector, a legal resident, had applied for citizenship, and a background check revealed a prior record. Authorities found that when he was homeless in California, he had tried to cash a check that wasn't his.

He pled guilty and served time, but, unfortunately, any non-citizen who commits a felony can face deportation regardless if they have paid for their offense by serving time. Hector dedicated his life to God while prison, became a pastor, began ministering and planting churches, and has had a clean record since his release almost fifteen years ago. In spite of these legal difficulties, Hector's ministry is thriving, and his local Baptist association has donated a building to his growing church in Siler City. Hector's hearing is on September 2nd in Charlotte, and we have organized character-reference letters on his behalf and at least one of our staff members is testifying at the hearing.

In the wake of Hector's arrest, our Mission Resource Plan partners like the Associated Baptist Press, *Baptists Today*, the Baptist Joint Committee, and the Baptist Center for Ethics reached out to us, covering the story or advocating for Hector by using their gifts and relationships to spread his story. The Baptist Center for Ethics began forming plans with the United Methodist Church for a biblically-based, non-partisan documentary on immigration, and the Racial Reconciliation Ministry Team and Coordinating Council of CBFNC voted to co-sponsor the project. This documentary, entitled "Gospel Without Borders," tells stories of immigrants, including Hector's, and explores our Christian response. A Sunday School curriculum by the Baptist Center for Ethics can serve as a companion piece for churches.



In Matthew 25, Jesus says, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing … I was in prison and you visited me … Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." What might this passage mean for Christians? Who is the "stranger" that needs to be welcomed in your community? Do you know any immigrants? How would Jesus minister to immigrants? How should your church respond? These are just a few questions one is challenged to prayerfully think through when interacting with this film. See the information box to the right for more details.

Immigration Documentary Screenings

CBFNC and the Baptist Center for Ethics will be holding free, ecumenical screenings around the state.

First Baptist Church of Greensboro
viewing and panel discussion
10:00am to 12:00pm
Monday, September 19
Please register by September 15

Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte
viewing and panel discussion
10:00am to 12:00pm
Tuesday, September 20
Please register by September 15

First Baptist Church of Raleigh
viewing and panel discussion
10:00am to 12:00pm
Monday, October 3
Please register by September 29

Light refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there, as we consider how to minister to the least of these in our community, those who are the face of Christ.

Please register at www.cbfnc.org. All are welcome!

Our Journey to Missional Faithfulness

by Terry D. Henderson, Pastor, Unity Christian Church International

Unity Christian Church International is a CBFNC multi-ethnic new-church start in Fayetteville. Under the leadership of Pastor Terry Henderson, they are accomplishing their vision: to be a place where disciples of Jesus Christ are catalysts who effect change in relationships, homes, work places, the marketplace, communities, and globally.

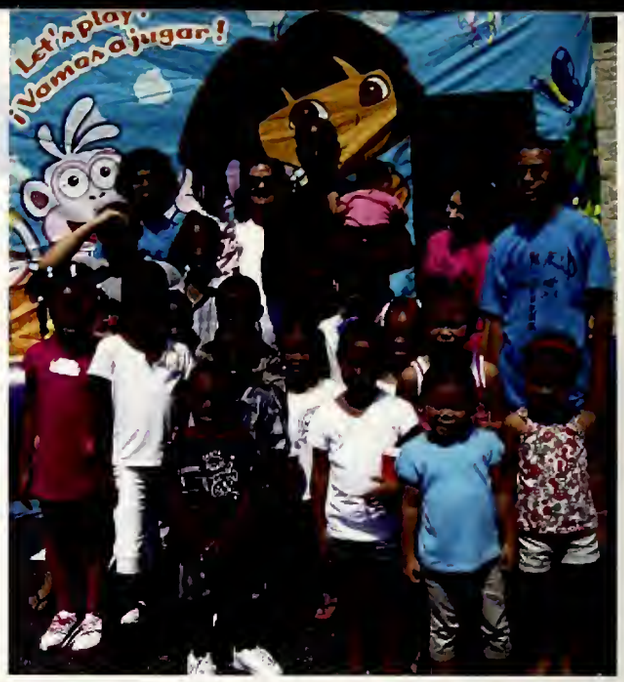
As I write this article, we are preparing for our three-year anniversary. Wow ... it seems like yesterday that we started this great work in my living room. In this writing, I will spotlight a few of the myriad of our outreach activities in our local community.

We serve the homeless and disenfranchised population in the economically distressed Bragg Boulevard communities of Fayetteville by providing food and clothing items. Also connected with this ministry, we have partnered with two outstanding non-profits, *Operation Blessing* and *Catholic Charities*, for job-placement opportunities in an effort to get more people off the street and into our community workforce. As our roots grow deeper, we hope to partner with more faith-based non-profits with similar vision.

In March 2011, we acquired a building adjacent to our worship facility and we are in the process of converting this space into a coffee shop called "The Agora Café." The purpose of Agora Café is to serve as a place for relationship building and community outreach. The revelation of Jesus Christ begins with relationship. We believe that the café outreach ministry will be a great opportunity to extend our relationship/evangelistic activities to our growing community in a practical way. We are immediately surrounded by commercial and retail businesses, and the building will be a multipurpose facility that will also be used by our children and student ministries on selected days during the evenings. During the weekdays, we will give free coffee to the general public. Lunchtime Bible studies will be offered on designated days during the week for local employees. The café will also have free Wifi access. From a leadership development standpoint, the café ministry will open doors of opportunities for the disciples of Unity Christian Church to serve the public in a fresh and exciting way. We hope to accomplish our upfit/building project debt free (as we did our main sanctuary) and, as the café develops in its mission, we will request donations for coffee from local businesses.

We give all praises to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the privilege to serve. I speak for all the Unity Christian Church family in saying that we are very grateful for the CBF seed that was sown in our ministry. Our desire is to continue to produce more fruit in the form of salvations and growth in the lives of people. Evangelistic outreach is our passion and mission.

You may contact Terry D. Henderson, Pastor of Unity Christian Church International by e-mail at *thenderson@unitycci.org* or (910) 322-0934. You may also visit the church's website at *www.unitycci.org*.



Photos, top to bottom: Back-to-School Bash, members of UCCI, Baby Gabby's dedication, and our first Progressive Dinner hosts.

Ordination, Your Story?

by Ka'thy Gore Chappell, CBFNC Leadership Development Coordinator

When I want to know the meaning of a word, I go to the dictionary or, these days, Wikipedia. *Ordination* is the word I researched today and the definition is as follows: "Ordination is the process by which individuals are *consecrated*, that is set apart as *clergy* to perform various religious rites and ceremonies." The definition, however, is not complete or specific as to ordination policies and procedures, and the reality is that the process of ordination can be confusing.

In an attempt to provide clarity to the word, the sacrament, or process of ordination, the Leadership Development Ministry Council's Sub-Committee on Ordination is inviting you to share your ordination experience. In order to initiate the story-telling, several brief ordination stories are included in this article. You are invited to write about your personal ordination experience; once you write your story, please send it to me at *kchappell@cbfnc.org*. After stories are collected, the sub-committee will share these experiences with you via follow-up dialogue, ordination resources and worship ideas.

Ordination Sub-Committee: Shane Nixon, Chair; Dennis Atwood; Sarah Boberg; Layne Rogerson

I was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel by Oakmont Baptist Church in Greenville, NC. It has been a decade since that beautiful spring day when my family, biological and ecclesiastical, gathered for the sacred ritual of affirmation, blessing and commissioning. My home church in South Carolina was a place where I was nurtured and loved, taught biblical truths, baptized, married and experienced that mystical call to ministry.

Oakmont is the church of my adulthood, where my beliefs in God matured to faith. It is also the church where my call to ministry was fostered and I was called to serve in 1996 as Minister of Students and Missions.

Through the years, my ordination has inspired me to be passionate in service toward God, and on occasion it has been the tether that kept me from fleeing the ministry when things got too hard. Because my role in ministry today is chaplaincy, ordination has developed a new meaning as it validates and legitimizes my ministry in a secular work environment.

Layne Rogerson,
Spiritual Care Manager & Hospice Chaplain,
Home, Health & Hospice Care, Greenville

The Cary, NC, church that ordained me had been ordaining women as deacons for years; however, the church had never ordained a woman to "the Gospel Ministry." I believe that the key to my positive experience was that ordination came one year after my arrival on the church staff as Minister to Youth. I knew and loved the people, and they knew and loved me. It was not an issue of ordaining a woman; the church was ordaining Ka'thy.

On the day of my ordination, I received cards, flowers, words of encouragement, a packed house at the worship and the beautiful singing by the Sanctuary Choir of Jesus, My Lord, My Life, My All (Burroughs).

Ka'thy Gore Chappell,
Leadership Development
Coordinator, CBFNC

While the process of my own ordination felt more like inquisition than affirmation, I will never forget what it did to me. There were times in the process when folks deemed it necessary to ask if I was "just in it for the housing allowance," which might have cheapened the entire thing.

Even so, the Holy Spirit descended in a real and concrete way, and my life has not been the same since.

Shane Nixon, Pastor,
First Baptist Church, Mocksville

National General Assembly: CBFNC's Big Check, Student Involvement and Mission Work

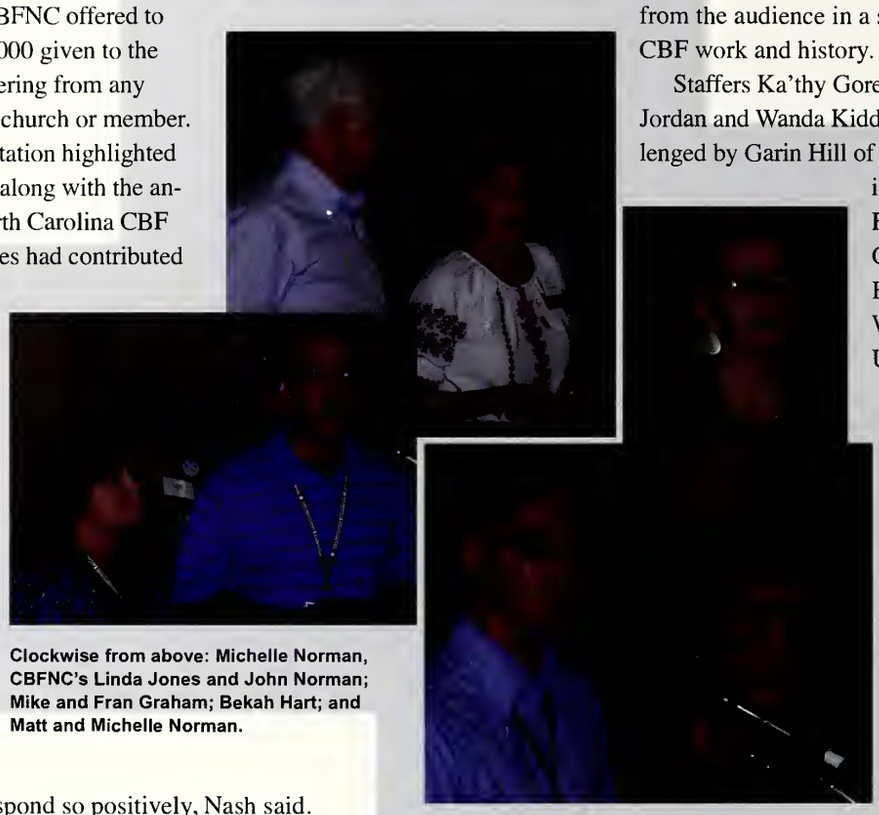
by Norman Jameson

North Carolina CBF members were everywhere at the 2011 Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly June 23-24 in Tampa, FL. From platform responsibilities, to breakout leadership and preaching, to addressing auxiliary meetings, North Carolina Baptists intersected easily and often with other CBF Baptists from around the country.

Significantly, North Carolina presented a check for $100,000 to Rob Nash, CBF global missions coordinator, during its state chapter meeting (see more on page 9). At the state assembly in March, CBFNC challenged members to support the CBF Global Missions Offering. As an incentive and in appreciation for church support of its own budget, CBFNC offered to match the first $100,000 given to the Global Missions Offering from any North Carolina CBF church or member.

The check presentation highlighted the chapter meeting, along with the announcement that North Carolina CBF members and churches had contributed $239,235 to qualify for the match.

Accepting the check, Nash said it is "sometimes very discouraging" to wrestle with limited and even declining budgets in the face of so much need. "I cannot tell you how encouraging, how meaningful it is to us" to have North Carolina Baptists respond so positively, Nash said.



Clockwise from above: Michelle Norman, CBFNC's Linda Jones and John Norman; Mike and Fran Graham; Bekah Hart; and Matt and Michelle Norman.

Larry Hovis, CBFNC coordinator, said the challenge elicited many exciting responses, and named two in particular. He said First Baptist Church, Raleigh, had decided not to receive a Global Missions Offering in the spring, because it had done so earlier. But when they learned of the challenge, they raised $15,000 toward it.

Hovis said another special collection came from the children of First Baptist Church, Elizabeth City, who raised a "Mile of Pennies," which is at least $844.

Hovis was gratified by the response. "I'm very grateful to North Carolina Cooperative Baptists for their generosity and faithfulness," he said.

nc meeting highlights

Hovis updated participants on chapter activities and introduced new staff member Ka'thy Gore Chappell as Leadership Development Coordinator. Chappell also was worship leader for the Baptist Women in Ministry annual meeting.

Field personnel with North Carolina ties briefly presented their work and thanked CBFNC members for their support. John Pierce, editor of *Baptists Today*, announced the news magazine's new initiative to publish Bible study lessons based on the Lectionary, with free accompanying resources online. North Carolinians are heavily involved, including Tony Cartledge providing the Bible content and Rick Jordan providing adult teaching aids.

Moderator Donna Bissette led a hybrid version of a popular TV game show in, "Are You Smarter Than a Coordinator?" CBFNC staff coordinators were matched against participants from the audience in a series of questions about CBF work and history.

Staffers Ka'thy Gore Chappell, Jack Causey, Rick Jordan and Wanda Kidd were good naturedly challenged by Garin Hill of Sandy Plains Baptist Church in Shelby; Charlotte Smith of First Baptist in Winston-Salem; Chuck McGathy of First Baptist, Madison, and Andy Wakefield, dean of Campbell University Divinity School.

screening

Hector Villanueva, a CBFNC church planter and pastor of *Iglesia Bautista la Roca* in Siler City, NC, was featured in a documentary on immigration, presented in rough cut at the Baptist Center for Ethics luncheon (see article on page 3). Earnest church workers along the Mexican border with Arizona, where one-half of the deaths occur among those trying to slip into the country unnoticed, urged Christians to "care for the alien in our midst as one of our own."

Villanueva will learn in September if his appeal will be granted or if he will be deported. His wife and six children are all American citizens. "If Hector is deported, we will have to decide to split up" or all go to Mexico, said his wife Martha.

student experience

Wanda Kidd, who is both CBFNC College Ministry Coordinator and national CBF collegiate consultant, had a full week after sleeping on church floors and in pews with about 30 students from six states who came for the fourth year of missional experience in conjunction with the General Assembly (see story on page 8).

Each year, students address a particular issue for conversation around their gathering and this year it was immigration.

Then they participate in as much of the General Assembly as possible.

The collegiate experience started as an experiment, to get college kids together and see what will happen. One of the benefits is student engagement with CBF leadership. Students this year came from Alabama, North Carolina, Mississippi, Missouri, Virginia and Tennessee.

CBF missionaries gather around CBFNC's "Big Check."

Several came as a part of their summer collegiate internship, serving in CBF churches for ten summer weeks.

Students stayed two nights at First Baptist Church in St. Petersburg, and three nights at Bayshore Baptist in Tampa, where new pastor Chris Cadenhead had started just the week before. Chris is the son of Al Cadenhead, pastor Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte.

Wanda Kidd, right, and students focused on immigration during the General Assembly.

"We're trying to help people understand missions is not always about going out and taking on a mercy event, but sometimes it's about addressing systemic issues," Kidd said. They want to study the issue and press the question, "How would you do this differently?"

responding to the call

Sam Harrell, field personnel in Kenya for 15 years who is on furlough in Raleigh at the Hayes Barton Baptist Church's mission house, spoke to the General Assembly during missions night. He said some compare missions to life on the Serengeti "complete with wildebeest, lions, gazelles, and maybe even a few dung beetles."

He said people are responding to the call of missions on their hearts, but often have to look to alternate funding sources to reach the field. Since 2005, he said, no fully funded missionary has been appointed at the General Assembly.

"Can you imagine how frustrating it is to provide life-giving ministry to three communities and learn mid-year you have to cut back to two?" he asked. While he appreciates the opportunity he's had to share in the lives of short-term volunteers, he said engaging diverse people in God's world cannot be done in a week, a month or a year. It takes most of a lifetime," he said.

He urged participants to "sacrifice more than we thought prudent; to give more than we thought possible."

clarify identity

Larry Hovis participated in a panel discussion with national CBF coordinator Daniel Vestal to talk about the future, about the preliminary report of the 2012 Task Force and about his own desire to see CBF clarify its identity and recommit to global missions.

"The General Assembly was very positive," Hovis said. "Tampa and the Florida CBF were wonderful hosts, and I am gratified by the large number of North Carolinians who traveled there to participate."

Hovis is a member of the CBF 2012 Task Force, which presented an interim report at the meeting. Through many listening sessions, the task force has named identity, community and ministry as three areas that need to be addressed.

"We've got to figure out a better way of describing who we are as Baptists and as Christians, both to ourselves and to the world," Hovis said in an interview after the meeting.

CBFNC's Larry Hovis

Hovis encouraged development of an "asset map" of all the CBF entities, ministries and partners so each can "minister out of our strengths and support the other expressions of CBF as they minister out of their strengths."

Hovis enjoyed the "joyful celebration" of the 20th anniversary of CBF and the positive, encouraging spirit at the General Assembly.

"In spite of the challenges that face CBF and all religious organizations, I believe our future is very bright," Hovis said. "I'm confident of our future for North Carolina Cooperative Baptists and Cooperative Baptists around the world."

Tampa Sessions Immerses Students in CBF Works

by Wanda Kidd, CBFNC College Ministry Coordinator

Tampa Sessions was the fourth Collegiate Missional Experience offered at the CBF General Assembly. The annual event was created to include students with an interest in social issues and to help them understand the value of a larger group coming together to address these social and theological concerns.

This year, 27 students from 6 states joined in a very full week of missional engagement. This event is not a luxurious week of vacation and networking. The students slept on the floor at both First Baptist Church of St. Petersburg and Bayshore Baptist Church in Tampa, communally cooked their meals and showered in shower trailers, but they did it very graciously.

Caitlin Sandlin from the Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama led the students through an in-depth discussion about the issues surrounding immigration in the U.S. and helped them think about the Christian way of processing the legislative aspects, as well as putting a human face on the debate.

In addition to addressing a particular topic at Tampa Sessions, the students are introduced to people in the life of CBF who are ministering in a variety of ways.

Tampa Sessions hosted a dinner for the Together for Hope board members and current, young clergy to hear what they are about and to find ways that we can partner together.

From Wednesday through Friday, the students participated fully in the Tampa General Assembly. The group attended CBF's 20th Celebration dinner, the Leadership Institute, Baptist Joint Committee Luncheon, various workshops and worship gatherings.

The Tampa Sessions group, however, more than simply attended these events. They helped usher, take up tickets, and offer communion at Friday night's worship. They met students from other states with similar interests, met with authors of books they had read in class and talked to people in the missions field. The students expressed a new understanding of the scope and depth of CBF's mission and wanted to seek ways to partner with the movement. It was a great week.

Join us at the Ft. Worth Sessions, June 18-22, 2012.

Communion on the beach.

Meet Three Campus Ministers

by Wanda Kidd, CBFNC College Ministry Coordinator

The new CBF Collegiate Minister at Western Carolina University is Nathan Willard. Nathan has an undergrad degree from Yale and attended divinity school at Harvard University. He lives in Cullowhee and attends Cullowhee Baptist Church.

Some of Nathan's thoughts: *My call to ministry arose out of my experience with too many churches indifferent to the Christian Mission. If not now, when; If not me, who? ... Hope to help the CSF members write the story for the next 20 years of the CBF. ... Born and raised in Iowa City, Iowa, before moving to New England for college fifteen years ago (Go Hawks!). ... Wife (Beth Yale) is a professor in the History department at Western. Our daughter, Mattie, just now two, quickly loved South Carolina peaches and Sourwood honey when we moved to Cullowhee last year (as did we). ... Fun fact: I own 13 hymnals, including a 130 year-old edition of the Sacred Harp Beth gave me when I graduated from Divinity School.*

The CBF Cooperative Student Fellowship meets at Cullowhee Baptist Church on Monday evenings. You can contact Nathan at *nathan.willard@aya.yale.edu.*

Lawrence Powers' new position this summer is a partnership between CBFNC and Oakmont Baptist Church in Greenville, NC. Lawrence will be working part-time with the local church to help minister to students and he will also work part-time on East Carolina University's campus to connect with students and help start a CSF group.

My wife's name is Heather and we have been married for three years. I was born in Georgia and spent my childhood moving around and living in Georgia, South Carolina and all over North Carolina.

I have my Bachelor of Arts focused in Religion and Philosophy from Campbell and am currently entering my third year in the Campbell Divinity School. I have spent the last six years in church and para-church student ministry. I am excited to have the opportunity to continue the ministry God has called me to as I work with college students in Greenville.

As a member of the generation currently in college, I have experienced how tough it can be to have and grow a relationship with Christ and experience life as it exists for a college student.

I know what it feels like to seek to figure out who you are and who you want to be during the college-age years and am excited that God has called me to be a part of helping others on that journey see that true identity is in Him.

I have no doubt that this is where God has called me to be, and I am excited to see the great things He is going to do with and through the college students impacted by this ministry.

You can contact Lawrence at *lawrence@oakmontchurch. . com.*

Ashley Mangrum is the new CBF Campus Minister at UNC-Chapel Hill. Ashley graduated in May from Truett Theological Seminary in Waco, TX, with a Master of Divinity. While Ashley was in seminary, she worked with Baylor University undergraduates as a Resident Chaplain for three years. She also worked for Baylor University's Department of Spiritual Life as a Ministry Associate for Global Missions.

Ashley is from Brandon, Mississippi, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Mississippi State University in 2004. Ashley is married to Ben who will be a graduate student at UNC starting this fall. Ashley and Ben welcomed their son Grady on June 29, 2011.

The CBF Co-op Group meets weekly at University Baptist Church on the corner of Franklin and Columbia in Chapel Hill.

You can contact Ashley at *ashleynmangrum@gmail.com.*

Dear CBF of North Carolina,

Words cannot express my deep appreciation for the $100,000 gift from North Carolina CBF that was given to Global Missions during the national General Assembly in Tampa, Florida. As you know, this was a matching gift from your state CBF that was contingent upon the receipt of at least another $100,000 from individuals and churches in North Carolina, thus ensuring at least $200,000 and probably much more in gifts to support the Offering for Global Missions. The gift offered much encouragement to our field personnel who have had to reduce operating budgets recently in order to bring expenses in line with income. I can honestly say that tears of joy were shed at the moment we received the gift.

Please know of our gratitude for your financial and prayer support and for your partnership in global missions and ministry.

Blessings,

Rob Nash, Global Missions Coordinator
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Serve one another in love.
Galatians 5:13b

• 2011 CBFNC CHILDREN'S MISSIONS DAYS •

November 5, 2011, at First, Raleigh
Leaders: Sam and Melody Harrell

November 5, 2011, at Calvary, Asheville
Leaders: Rick and Lita Sample

November 19, 2011, at First, Rockingham
Leaders: Sam and Melody Harrell

Registration Deadline: October 7
$20 per child and adult (includes snack, lunch, supplies, and backpack). 9:30am to 3:00pm. Grades 1-6. Activities include games, drama, art, cooking, worship and stories from CBF field personnel.

Visit www.cbfnc.org to register and for more information.

CBF Missions Field Personnel Off-Field Assignments in Our Area

Lita and Rick Sample
Raleigh from July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012
Lsample@thefellowship.info
or *Rsample@thefellowship.info*

Melody and Sam Harrell
Raleigh from June 4, 2011 – January 5, 2012
Harrell@africaexchange.org

Chaouki and Maha Boulos
Rock Hill, SC, from Oct. 14, 2011 – Jan. 30, 2012
Operationantioch@hotmail.com

Coordinator Visits May-June 2011

Cedar Falls, Fayetteville
First, Gastonia
First, High Point
First, Jamestown
Grace, Statesville
Longview, Raleigh
Macedonia, Raleigh
Viewmont, Hickory
Winter Park, Wilmington

New Baptist Covenant II

November 17-19, 2011

There will be a video broadcast of worship services and breakout sessions from Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, shown at churches across NC. In addition to the broadcast, each site will provide additional programming and coordinate a day of local missions opportunities on November 19th.

For more information, visit *www.cbfnc.org*.

Ministers on the Move

Compiled by Jack Causey, Ministerial Resources Coordinator

Our encouragement and support go to the following ministers who have recently moved:

Matthew Roberts has been called as associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Marion.

Bailey Nelson has been called as pastor of Flat Rock Baptist Church in Mt. Airy.

Greenwood Forest Baptist Church has called **Ben Boswell** as pastor.

Steve Sellers has been called to First Baptist Church in Mooresville as Minister of Christian Education and Outreach.

Woodrow Wilson Freeze has accepted the call to pastor the Grassy Creek Baptist Church in Bullock.

Enfield Baptist Church has called **Kerry Peeler** as pastor.

Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte has named **Drew Herring** as their new Ministerial Resident.

Fair Bluff Baptist Church in Fair Bluff has called **Dave Hawes** as their pastor.

Matthew Costner has been called as pastor of First Baptist Church in Spruce Pine.

St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte has called **Dennis Foust** as pastor.

Matt Dinkins has been called by Zebulon Baptist Church as their associate pastor.

Greystone Baptist Church in Raleigh has called **Sean Allen** as pastor.

Tim Elmore has been called as pastor of Central Baptist Church in Spruce Pine.

When you make a move or know of someone who has changed places of ministry, let us know at jcausey@cbfnc.org. **For assistance to search committees and ministers seeking vocational discernment, visit our reference and referral page on our website at www.cbfnc.org or call 336-759-3456 or 888-822-1944.**

The Gathering

of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

Cooperative Baptist FELLOWSHIP

phone: 336.759.3456 • phone: 888.822.1944 • fax: 336.759.3459 • cbfnc@cbfnc.org • www.cbfnc.org

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Rick Jordan	Church Resources Coordinator	RJordan@cbfnc.org	
Linda Jones	Missions Coordinator	LJones@cbfnc.org	
Jim Hylton	Business Administration Coordinator	JHylton@cbfnc.org	
Jack Causey	Ministerial Resources Coordinator	JCausey@cbfnc.org	
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Sarah Mitchell	Communications Manager	SMitchell@cbfnc.org	
Gail McAlister	Financial Manager	GMcalister@cbfnc.org	
Allison Gallimore	Administrative Assistant	AGallimore@cbfnc.org	

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Ray Ammons, Gastonia, **Moderator-Elect**
Steve Little, Marion, **Past Moderator**
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Brandon Hudson, Winston-Salem
Christopher Ingram, Elizabeth City
Andrea Dellinger Jones, Raleigh
Nate Leonard, Kannapolis
Alicia Porterfield, Wilmington
Hector Villanueva, Pittsboro
Linda Winslow, Jamestown

CBF National Council Members from NC
Darryl Aaron, Winston-Salem
Roger Gilbert, Mount Airy
Don Gordon, Durham
Beth McConnell, Charlotte
Glenn Phillips, Goldsboro
Robin Roberts, Raleigh
Blenda Price Sloniker, Hickory

Financial Report:

May 2011 Contributions	Undesignated - $85,708	Designated - $177,367
June 2011 Contributions	Undesignated - $109,366	Designated - $241,459

April 2011 - March 2012 Monthly Undesignated Goal: $132,604

Plan Ahead!

CBFNC 2012 General Assembly
Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh
March 23-24, 2012

Due to concurrent events in Raleigh that weekend, we suggest that you make hotel reservations early. Visit www.cbfnc.org for a list of discounted hotel rooms.

elevating preaching 2011

September 26, 2011
Campbell University Divinity School
Buies Creek, NC

The 2011 Elevating Preaching Conference welcomes three noted preachers with three distinct styles who will inspire you with their messages and then dialogue with you about their sermons.

For more information and to register, visit www.cbfnc.org.

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Upcoming Events ~ September/October Edition

Christian Coaching Certificate Program Q&A
September 1, 2011

Youth White Water Rafting
September 3-5, 2011
Asheville

New Ministers' Luncheon
September 8, 2011
CBFNC office, Winston-Salem

Youth Fall Beach Retreat
September 16-18, 2011
Myrtle Beach, SC

Immigration Documentary
September 19, 2011
First Baptist, Greensboro

Immigration Documentary
September 20, 2011
Providence, Charlotte

Elevating Preaching Conference
September 26, 2011
Campbell Divinity School

Deacon Training: Growing Churches in Challenging Times
October 1, 2011
University, Chapel Hill

Immigration Documentary
October 3, 2011
First Baptist, Raleigh

Christian Coaching Certificate Training
501 Class: Building Blocks to Christian Coaching
October 10-11, 2011

Deacon Training: Growing Churches in Challenging Times
October 15, 2011
First, Hickory

Fellowship on the Move
October 24, 2011, at First, Sylva
November 6, 2011, at Mt. Olive Missionary, Fayetteville

Children's Missions Days
November 5, 2011, in Asheville
November 5, 2011, in Raleigh
November 19, 2011, in Rockingham

New Baptist Covenant (video broadcast)
November 17-19, 2011
Locations to be determined

Christian Coaching Certificate Training
502 Class: Establishing a Dynamic Coaching Relationship
December 5-6, 2011

Youth Ski Retreat
January 20-22, 2012
January 27-29, 2012
Winterplace Ski Resort in WV

Christian Coaching Certificate Training
508 Class: Coach Approach to Evangelism and Discipleship
February 6-7, 2012

CBFNC General Assembly
March 23-24, 2012
Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh

Children's Choir Festival
March 24, 2012
Raleigh

Christian Coaching Certificate Training
506 Class: Personal Coaching
April 2-3, 2012

8th Annual Youth Choir Festival
April 20-21, 2012
First, Greensboro

Impacting Tomorrow: Traditional Churches Finding Their Future in God's Story
May 18-19, 2012
Providence, Charlotte

Visit *www.CBFNC.org* to register and for more information.

The Gathering is published six times a year. All questions may be directed to Sarah Mitchell, (336) 759-3456 or (888) 822-1944 or smitchell@cbfnc.org.
For story submissions, contact Sarah Mitchell for requirements and newsletter deadlines.